Mastering Social Foresight: Navigating Future Challenges

Course Goals:

Participants in this course will gain an expert understanding of how to interpret and influence the complex dynamics of future societal trends. The curriculum delves into essential topics including abstract and concrete futures, levels of future studies, futures literacy, complexities in social systems, and anticipatory governance, building a holistic understanding of social foresight.

Methodology:

- Video Lectures: Provide foundational knowledge and introduce complex ideas in a digestible format.
- Interactive Forums: Foster a collaborative learning environment where students can discuss and deepen their understanding of the lectures.
- Live Sessions: Enable real-time interaction, allowing for the clarification of concepts and debates on application methods.
- Case Studies: Offer practical insights and examples, demonstrating the real-world application of theoretical concepts.

Assessment:

Following the structure provided in the accompanying Excel chart, the course will include:

- Weekly Tasks: Students must complete one to three activities each week, which involve critical engagement with the course material and practical applications of learned concepts.
- Reading Assignments: Students are asked to follow the recommended reading list, aiding in comprehension and critical thinking.
- Interactive Projects: Collaborative projects that encourage the application of foresight methodologies to current societal challenges.
- Final Assignments: A final essay on the topic of "anticipatory governance" that encapsulates the student's learning and application of the course material.

Tips for Students:

- Regular Engagement: Consistently interact with course materials and participate in all scheduled activities.
- Proactive Learning: Engage deeply with readings and projects, and utilize forums to ask questions and share insights.
- Critical Analysis: Apply critical thinking to all tasks, and challenge yourself to connect theoretical concepts with practical scenarios.
- Collaboration and Sharing: Cooperate with peers in forums and group projects, enriching your learning experience through diverse perspectives.
- This course is designed to create a dynamic educational experience that equips students with the foresight capabilities necessary to anticipate and navigate future societal changes effectively.

Blocks Breakdown and Session Details:

Block #1: How to access the future?

Sessions #1-2:
General Introduction of the course
Introduction to abstract and concrete futures based on Poli's framework.
Exploring the concepts of risk and uncertainty.

Block #2: Futures Literacy (Riel Miller's Work)

Sessions #3-4:
Developing skills to recognize and utilize various types of futures.
Interactive activities for enhancing futures literacy.

Block #3: Levels of Future Studies

Sessions #5-6:
In-depth study of forecasting, foresight, and anticipation.
Case studies illustrating each level.

Block #4: Embracing Complexity in Social Systems

Sessions #7-8:
Understanding complexity using theoretical models.
Application in social foresight.

Block #5: Anticipatory Governance (Leon Fuerth's Work)

Sessions #9-10:
Principles and practices of anticipatory governance.
Integrating foresight into policy-making.

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
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