

PS 394: Future Politics
Fañuchånan 2024

Instructor:	Kate L. Yusi
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Time and Date:	Monday and Wednesday 9:30AM – 10:50AM
Room:	HSS SBS Conference Room 2 nd Floor
Course Delivery	Face to Face
Office Hours:	TTH 9:30AM – 11:30AM FRI 11:00AM – 1:00PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How is the study of politics connected to imagining the future? How does active imagining of the future shape and influence the politics of today? This course is an exploration of the inherent connection between politics and the future. From political philosophy to specific government policies, how do they imagine, manage, and control future possibilities? In turn, how do future designs and imagining seek to guide and shape the sociopolitical, economic, and geopolitical developments and narratives of today? This course is at once an examination of current issues related to transforming and managing the future and a space for students to imagine, design, and develop alternative future possibilities. This course encompasses a diverse array of topics spanning from discipline and scarcity to political economy and international relations, spatial designs and sustainable spaces, technological developments, the environment, Afrofuturism, and indigenous futures. It finishes with a broader question: how do you want to imagine your future? This course is both theoretical and hands-on--combining political theory and critical studies, science and speculative fiction, empirical research, and design workshops.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Student Learning Outcome (SLOs)	Program Learning Outcomes	Institutional Learning Outcomes
Critically analyze the philosophical frameworks to different social, political, and economic structures/systems.	PLO5: Interpret the meaning and implications of political speech, text, images, art and acts	ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving ILO6: An appreciation of the arts and sciences

<p>Practice imagining alternative political, social, and economic futures.</p>	<p>PLO2: Apply theories to the study of domestic and international politics</p> <p>PLO3: Compare political systems and processes in different periods, locations and contexts</p> <p>PLO4: Design a political research project that incorporates principles of social science inquiry</p>	<p>ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving</p> <p>ILO3: Effective oral and written communication</p> <p>ILO5: Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology</p> <p>ILO6: An appreciation of the arts and sciences</p>
<p>Engage is speculative futures concerning alternative futures in Guam and wider Pacific</p>	<p>PLO1: Analyze the political systems found in the United States and Micronesia</p> <p>PLO2: Apply theories to the study of domestic and international politics</p> <p>PLO5: Interpret the meaning and implications of political speech, text, images, art and acts</p>	<p>ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving</p> <p>ILO4: Understanding and appreciating culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context</p>
<p>Assess contemporary political, social, and economic structures and their impact to the future</p>	<p>PLO2: Apply theories to the study of domestic and international politics</p> <p>PLO3: Compare political systems and processes in different periods, locations and contexts</p>	<p>ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving</p> <p>ILO3: Effective oral and written communication</p>

Methods of Evaluation

1. Discussion posts to show comprehension of materials
2. Essays
3. Four Alternative Designs Projects
4. In-class participation via student facilitation

COURSE REFERENCE

All course materials and supplemental resources are available on the Moodle course page. If you do not have a Moodle account, you can go to this [link](#) to find out how to. You can also contact Moodle Help at moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu or 671-735-2620/1.

Moodle Self-Enrollment Info:

Course Name: [REDACTED]
Enrollment Key: [REDACTED]

GRADED CONTRIBUTIONS

Attendance and Participation	10 points
Reflection Papers	15 points
Lecture Launch	15 points
Future Design Projects (15 points each)	60 points

Grade Points are assigned as follows:

A+	100% - 98%	Outstanding
A	97% - 93%	
A-	92% - 90%	
B+	89% - 87%	Good
B	86% - 83%	
B-	82% - 80%	
C+	79% - 77%	Adequate
C	76% - 70%	
D	69% - 60%	Deficient
F	59% and below	Failure

Attendance and Participation (10%)

Attendance is a required part of this class. Attendance will be taken at the **beginning** of every class. If you are late, it is your responsibility to see me at the end of the class to have your attendance recorded. Students who are more than 30 minutes late will not be counted as attending.

Attendance on this course will not only entail your presence in class but will also be based on how much you participate in the class discussions. Participation, too, will not be measured based on your objective knowledge about the topics and themes that we will be discussing in each session. I hope to see more engagement and participation by voicing your own critical thoughts, raising questions that bother you the most in relation to our topic, and sharing anything that allows you to connect and understand our readings to current political situations, be it a tv show,

a literary or graphic novel, a film, or any art work (whether it's considered "low brow") that you love and think is/are instrumental in making clear some of the confusions you may encounter throughout the course.

Short Reflection Papers (15%)

You are required to write **4** one-page (single space) reflection papers on the required readings from any of the sessions listed in the course schedule. This reflection paper should be posted on **Moodle** under **Discussions** before the start of the session on which you decided to write a reflection paper on. I will be making individual threads for each session for you to use. I'm encouraging students not simply to summarize the readings but to truly reflect on them since I will be randomly selecting a reflection paper to jump-start our class discussion.

Lecture Launch (15%)

You are required to choose **one (1) session** which you will be responsible for launching the class. A sign-up sheet for selecting your topics will be available in the semester.

Your job is to launch our discussion by doing the following:

1. Reminding us of 2 or 3 of the most salient points raised by the session's materials. What is or are the project/s? Why is it/they important? No summaries of readings.
2. Raising questions worthy of discussion, including your own responses, agreements, disagreements, or confusions about the materials, and
3. The person who launches our class is invited to prepare in-class activities or exercises to stimulate discussion.
4. Each launch should take about 20 minutes. Part of doing good launch is continuing to stay involved in the conversation after the 20 mins, and "team-teach" the class with me. You are welcome to devise an exercise for the class in some other way.

You are required to submit your "launch" preparation sheet the day before your launch session. By sheet, I should be able to see at least points (1) and (2) above in the written document.

Future Design Projects (60%)

Throughout this course, you are required to complete four (4) Future Design projects with the following topics:

1. Prison System
2. Urban/City Design
3. Alternative Economic System
4. Future Design of Your Own Choice

Each project is worth 15%. Depending on the number of students registered for the course, you may either work as one class or will be divided into two groups. The deadline for each future design project is listed in the course schedule.

This assignment is intended as a platform for the students to practice imagining a future and illustrating the future to the entire class. In this assignment, you are free to draft a digital magazine, write a speculative fiction or essay, create a short film, illustrate a short comic, or produce a podcast. Films and podcasts only need to be within 20 minutes in duration. Feel free to make a series of short films or podcasts. For written projects, they can be within 7-10 pages. Here is an example of a written project imagining the future from [The New York Times](#). For audio-visual projects, you may also look into [The Postcapitalism Podcast](#).

POLICIES

All required submissions are due by 11:59PM unless another time is indicated in the syllabus. No late submission will be accepted. If you miss any work, feel free to contact me to discuss the matter.

Plagiarism

Students are expected to be honest in all their academic work. Academic honesty means, fundamentally, that any work you submit to this course must be really yours unless proper credit is given to the owner of the work. Academic dishonesty, in forms like plagiarism or cheating, will result in a failing grade in the course and a possible disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism is a very serious offense that the university does not take lightly. For more information about plagiarism, feel free to read this:

<http://hasso.uog.edu:8080/jspui/libguides/Plagiarism.pdf>

EEO/ADA Statement

We are committed to maintaining a space for all community members of the University that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. If you experience harassment or discrimination, you can report them immediately at the EEO/ADA & Title IX Office, Institutional Compliance Officed located in Dorm 1. You can also contact them at 671-735-2244.

For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodation, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.

Student's Responsibilities

Students are expected to be courteous to and considerate of others. Be respectful while in class. Students who do their homework, follow the readings, and fully participate in class will come

away with a better understanding of how philosophical reflection on human nature can influence legal, moral, and cultural assumptions.

Communication and Consultation Hours

Students are expected to be I'll answer all emails regarding the class within 24 hours except on weekends. You can also request for a brief one-on-one session with me about the course or academic matters. Consultation is by appointment only via e-mail. Set an appointment as early as possible so I can set aside time for our consultation.

Change to the Syllabus

There may be changes to the syllabus as we go through the course. I will notify you at least a week in advance and provide the material that you are required to read.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 August 14	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Syllabus
Week 2 August 19-21	Utopia, Dystopia and Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Jasanoff, “Future Imperfect: Science, Technology, and the Imaginations of Modernity” in <i>Dreamscapes of Modernity: Sociotechnical Imaginaries and Fabrication of Power</i> • Anthony Dunne & Fiona Raby, “Beyond Radical Design” in <i>Speculative Everything: Design, Fiction, and Social Dreaming</i> <p>Rec Watch: Jann Choy, <i>How to Use Speculative Design to Question Our New Realities</i></p> <p>Resource: What is Design Fiction?</p>
DESIGN AND SECURITY Design Project No. 1 Alternative Prison System Design		
Week 3 August 26 - 28	Philosophy of Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thom Brooks, “The Unified Theory of Punishment” • Albert Dzur, <i>Punishment and Democratic Theory</i> • Michel Foucault, <i>Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison</i>, Part Four Prison
Week 4 September 4	Prison Designs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Easton, <i>The Politics of the Prison and the Prisoner Zoon Politikon</i> <p>Watch:</p>

		The Panopticon and the Punishment of Being Watched The History of Jail Design and Construction How Norway Designed a More Human Prison Prison Design: Architecture for Healing
Week 5 September 9-11	Workshop and Presentation	<p>Session 1: Workshop <i>This session is dedicated for students to work and finalize their design.</i></p> <p>Session 2: Presentation <i>This session is dedicated for students to present their design in class.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Due Date 1st Project:</u> <u>SEPTEMBER 15</u></p>
SCARCITY Design Project No. 2 Alternative Urban/City Design		
Week 6 September 16-18	History and Theory of Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frederik Albritton Jonsson and Carl Wennerlind, <i>Scarcity: A History from the Origins of Capitalism to the Climate Crisis</i>
Week 7 September 23-25	Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrianna Fillol Mazo and Miguel Angel Martin Lopez, <i>Food Security Issues and Challenges</i> <p>Rec Watch: Food Security: A Growing Dilemma Three Sisters: Companion Planting of North American Indigenous Peoples </p>
Week 8 September 30-October 2	Housing Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Desmond, <i>Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City</i> Deborah Potts, <i>Broken Cities: Inside the Global Housing Crisis</i>

<p>Week 10 October 14-16</p>	<p>Workshop and Presentation</p>	<p>Session 1: Workshop <i>This session is dedicated for students to work and finalize their design.</i></p> <p>Session 2: Presentation <i>This session is dedicated for students to present their design in class.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Due Date 2nd Project:</u> <u>OCTOBER 20</u></p>
<p>ECONOMY AND FUTURE Design Project No. 3 Alternative Economic Structure</p>		
<p>Week 11 October 21-23</p>	<p>Capitalism and Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Collier, <i>The Future of Capitalism</i> <p>Novel: Ursula Le Guin, <i>The Dispossessed</i></p>
<p>Week 12 October 28-30</p>	<p>Post-Capitalism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vincent Geoghegan, <i>Utopianism and Marxism</i> • Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams, <i>Inventing the Future: Postcapitalism and a World without Work</i>
<p>Week 13 November 4-6</p>	<p>Ecological Economy and Degrowth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi Klein, <i>This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs The Climate</i> • Kohei Saito, <i>Marx in the Anthropocene: Towards the Idea of Degrowth Communism</i> <p>Rec Watch: Kohei Saito on Marx in the Anthropocene Degrowth and Ecosocialism with Jason Hickel</p>
<p>Week 14 November 13</p>	<p>Workshop and Presentation</p>	<p>Session 1: Workshop and Presentation</p>

		<p><i>This session is dedicated for students to finalize and present their design.</i></p> <p><u>Due Date 3rd Project:</u> <u>November 17</u></p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE FUTURE Design Project No. 4 Design Your Future</p>		
<p>Week 15 November 18-20</p>	<p>Technology and Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Heidegger, <i>Critique of Technology</i> • Margaret Boden, <i>AI: Its Nature and Future</i>
<p>Week 16 November 25-27</p>	<p>World and Planetary Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rens van Munster and Casper Sylvest, <i>Nuclear Realism: Global Political Thought During the Thermonuclear Revolution</i> • Daniel Deudney, <i>Dark Skies: Space Expansionism, Planetary Geopolitics, and the Ends of Humanity</i>
<p>Week 17 December 2-4</p>	<p>Race, Indigeneity and Alternative Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andre Carrington, <i>Speculative Blackness: The Future of Race in Science Fiction</i> • Eva Mackey, <i>Unsettled Expectations: Uncertainty, Land, and Settler Decolonization.</i> <p>Novel, Gina Cole, <i>Na Viro</i> (Pasifikafuturism)</p>
<p>Week 18</p>	<p>Final Project</p>	<p>Exam Day: <i>This session is dedicated for students to present their final design project</i></p> <p><u>Due Date 4th Project:</u> <u>December 13</u></p>