هيئة تقويم التعليم والتدريب
Education & Training Evaluation Commission

Course Specifications
(Postgraduate Degree)

Course Title:	**Master Thesis**
Course Code:	**MSFS 6399**
Program:	**MsC Futures Studies**
Department:	**Futures Studies**
College:	**College of Sciences and Human Studies**
Institution:	**Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University**

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A. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: 6
2. Course type ☒ Required ☐ Elective
3. Level/year at which this course is offered: MsC, Year 1
4. Pre-requisites for this course (if any)**:** Students shall have completed 6 core courses: **MSFS 5301** **MSFS 5302** **MSFS 5303** **MSFS 6311** **MSFS 6312** **MSFS 6313**
5. Co-requisites for this course (if any)**: N/A**

6. Mode of Instruction (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	**Traditional classroom**		
2	**Blended**		
3	**E-learning**		
4	**Distance learning**		
5	**Scientific Supervision**	To be determined between student and supervisor	100%

7. Actual Learning Hours (based on academic semester)

No	Activity	Learning Hours
1	**Lecture**	
2	**Laboratory/Studio**	
3	**Seminars**	
4	**Others** (specify)	
Total		

B. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Course Description

Under the guidance of a supervisor, this course consists of writing and a fulfilling a defence of a Master Thesis in Futures Studies, with a specialization of choice. Students shall formulate a research question of relevance within the field of study, choose a methodology that can be used to find answers to the research question, use concepts, theories and methods to analyse and answer the research question and present a written, scientifically convincing argumentation to justify the results. Each student will be allocated a supervisor based on the topic of choice, who will advise the student in the research task included in the course and in the writing of the thesis.
The thesis can take several forms, for example:

- Empirical work involving quantitative and/or qualitative analysis of data
- A case study of a particular social problem, or
- Study of a particular problem in the field of Futures Studies, or
- Theoretical development of a methodology

2. Course Main Objective

For the Thesis Master's, we students will learn to: 1) perform a literature review, 2) identify important issues in a specific field and understand the scientific approach to research questions, 3) carry out a scientific study and appropriately managing its data, 4) appreciate the ethics involved in research, and 5) express oneself clearly in science (when speaking and writing).

3. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)		Aligned PLOs*
1	**Knowledge and Understanding**	
1.1	Identify important issues in a specific field while demonstrating the applicability of futures to these issues	K2, K3
2	**Skills :**	
2.1	Perform a literature review	S1, S2, S3
2.2	Carry out a scientific study that leverages the knowledge and skills developed throughout the entire programme	S2, S3, S4
2.3	Express ideas, arguments clearly in science (speaking and writing)	S1
3	**Values:**	
3.1	Exhibit an understanding and practice of the ethics involved in research	V1, V2

* Program Learning Outcomes

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1	Identification of Research Topic	
2	Review of relevant research	
3	Methods	
4	Findings	
5	Discussion (interpretation, connection to existing research, implications, limitations of the study)	
6	Conclusion	
Total		

D. Teaching and Assessment

1. Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes with Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	**Knowledge and Understanding**		
1.1	Demonstrated understanding of important concepts of futures studies, including history, critical and integral theories	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
1.2	Acquire an advanced and in-depth understanding of concepts of change, complexity, global futures, trends, weak signals, disruptions, wildcards, etc	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
1.3	Ability to understand that foresight can be applied in a range of disciplines, and demonstrate a well-rounded understanding of its advantages and limitations	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
2.0	**Skills**		
2.1	Ability to apply various approaches and methods for futures studies in a range of disciplines: including modelling and mapping of the domain, scanning, analysing and developing futures influences, drivers and opportunities, visioning and the development of futures scenarios and their implementation, strategic planning, managing change and back-casting (project design), etc	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
2.2	Develop and apply alternative (decentralised) learning techniques and approaches (divergent-convergent)	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
2.3	Ability to apply and evaluate various approaches and analyses to futures studies including systems theory and thinking, design thinking, critical thinking, and application of abductive logic	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
2.4	Develop and apply Futures Literacy framework to research, reflection, and practice	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
3.0	**Values**		
3.1	Exhibit self-directed and peer collaborative learning through effective communication skills	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence
3.2	Capable of conducting and leading quality research in futures studies, and understanding of professional and ethical responsibilities	Scientific Supervision	Thesis Report and Defence

2. Assessment Tasks for Students

#	Assessment task*	Week Due	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Submission of initial proposal	Week 8, 2nd year	15%
2	Final Thesis Report	Week 16	70%
3	Final Thesis Oral Presentation	Week 16	15%

***Assessment task** (i.e., written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.)

E. Student Academic Counseling and Support

Arrangements for availability of faculty and teaching staff for individual student consultations and academic advice:

- Advisors are assigned in Banner Student System for individual (general) student consultations and academic advice.
- Office hours are provided for students to ask questions related to the course.

F. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. Learning Resources

Required Textbooks	
Essential Reference Materials	Turabian K.L, W.C. Booth, G.G. Colomb, and J.M. Williams 2013. *A manual for writers of research papers, theses, and dissertations.* 8th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press Advice for Crafting Research Topics, https://extension.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/11/advice_for_thesis_topic_selection.pdf http://gseacademic.harvard.edu/~instruct/gutman_library/litreview/process/data/downloads/handoutofslides_process.pdf https://gseacademic.harvard.edu/~instruct/gutman_library/litreview/write/data/downloads/handoutofslides_write.pdf
Electronic Materials	
Other Learning Materials	

2. Educational and research Facilities and Equipment Required

Item	Resources
Accommodation (Classrooms, laboratories, demonstration rooms/labs, etc.)	Classroom with computer, projector and smart board suitable for graduate students
Technology Resources (AV, data show, Smart Board, software, etc.)	Smart Board
Other Resources (Specify, e.g. if specific laboratory equipment is required, list requirements or attach a list)	Computer lab equipped with finite element software

G. Course Quality Evaluation

Evaluation Areas/Issues	Evaluators	Evaluation Methods
Effectiveness of Teaching and Assessment	Independent reviewers by Program leaders and Deanship of Quality and Accreditation	Course survey through online Course Evaluation System
Effectiveness of Assessment	Independent reviewers/peer review	Independent Evaluation of Assessment Forms
Achievement of Course Learning Outcomes	Faculty	Exam Questions, Rubrics
Learning Resources	Student	Learning Resources Annual Survey
Effectiveness of Teaching and Assessment	Independent reviewers by Program leaders and Deanship of Quality and Accreditation	Course Survey through online Course Evaluation System
Effectiveness of Assessment	Independent reviewers/peer review	Independent Evaluation of Assessment Forms
Achievement of Course Learning Outcomes	Faculty	Exam Questions, Rubrics

Evaluation Areas/Issues (e.g., Effectiveness of teaching and assessment, Extent of achievement of course learning outcomes, Quality of learning resources, etc.)
Evaluators (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify)
Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)

H. Specification Approval Data

Council / Committee	
Reference No.	
Date	