



Course Specifications (Postgraduate Degree)

Course Title:	Futures Methods & Techniques: Qualitative Approaches
Course Code:	MSFS 6313
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: 3
2. Course type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required <input type="checkbox"/> Elective
3. Level/year at which this course is offered: MsC, Year 1
4. Pre-requisites for this course (if any): N/A
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	45	100%
2	Blended		
3	E-learning		
4	Distance learning		
5	Other		

7. Actual Learning Hours (based on academic semester)

No	Activity	Learning Hours
1	Lecture	30
2	Laboratory/Studio	0
3	Seminars	0
4	Others (specify) Training sessions	15
Total		45

B. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Course Description

The course introduces (the most common) futures studies qualitative methods and mixed methods that have qualitative component as well as concept related to them. Methods introduced are e.g. future workshops, qualitative scenario processes, delpfi-questionnaire, horizon scanning, CLA (causal layered analysis), content analysis.

2. Course Main Objectives

- Students will understand the essence of qualitative and mixed futures research methods.
- Students are capable to describe different futures research methods.
- Students undertand the difference between data gathering and data analysis.
- Students know how to select which method for what purpose, and acknowledge the flexibility of the use of the methods.

3. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)		Aligned PLOs*
1	Knowledge and Understanding	
1.1	Understand how the research question critically drives the choice of methods in research design	K3
1.2	Acknowledge the development and pros and cons of methods introduced	K2
1.3	Understand the relationship between theory and method	K2
2	Skills :	
2.1	Apply methods according to research question and set-up	S3
2.2	Assess methods	S3
2.3	Develop method(s) further for new purposes	S3
2.4		
3	Values:	
3.1	Carry out methodologically and research ethically sound futures research work/project/process.	V1, V2

* Program Learning Outcomes

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1	Futures Literacy	5
2	Future Workshops	8
3	Scenarios	8
4	Horizon Scanning and content analysis	6
5	CLA	6
6	Other relevant methods	12
Total		45

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	Understand how the research question critically drives the choice of methods in research design	Lectures, training sessions	Exams, training report, learning diary
1.2	Acknowledge the development and pros and cons of methods introduced	Lectures, training sessions	Exams, training report, learning diary
1.3	Understand the relationship between theory and method	Lectures, training sessions	Exams, training report, learning diary
2.0	Skills		
2.1	Apply methods according to research question and set-up	Lectures, training sessions	Exams, training report
2.2	Assess methods	Lectures, training sessions	Exams, training report
2.3	Develop method(s) further for new purposes	Lectures, training sessions	Exams, training report
3.0	Values		

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
3.1	Carry out methodologically and research ethically sound futures research work/project/process.	Lectures, training sessions	Exams, training report

2. Assessment Tasks for Students

#	Assessment task*	Week Due	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Learning diary		50
2	Group work report		50

*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	Futures Research Methodology V3.0 CD . (selected chapters)
Essential Reference Materials	Examples of previous futures research projects
Electronic Materials	
Other Learning Materials	<p>Van der Steen, M. & van Twist, M. (2012) Beyond use: Evaluating foresight that fits. Futures : the journal of policy, planning and futures studies. [Online] 44 (5), 475–486.</p> <p>Van der Steen, M. & Van der Duin, P. (2012) Learning ahead of time: how evaluation of foresight may add to increased trust, organizational learning and future oriented policy and strategy. Futures : the journal of policy, planning and futures studies. [Online] 44 (5), 487–493.</p>

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	Smart Board

Item	Resources
(AV, data show, Smart Board, software, etc.)	
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	