



Course Specifications (Postgraduate Degree)

Course Title:	Policy Futures
Course Code:	MSFS 6323
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 2
4. Pre-requisites for this course (if any): 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	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	33
2	Laboratory/Studio	
3	Seminars	
4	Others (specify): Syndicate work	12
Total		45

B. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Course Description

This course provides students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to integrate future-oriented thinking and foresight methodologies into policy formulation, evaluation, and decision-making processes. It aims to map out how stakeholders can adopt proactive and adaptive approaches in addressing complex policy issues.

2. Course Main Objective

- To introduce students to how policy futures and anticipatory governance integrate into policy development and implementation processes.
- To explore how policy approaches can be made flexible, adaptive, and robust, considering a range of possible future scenarios.

- To study monitoring and evaluation frameworks for assessing policy effectiveness from a long-range (anticipatory) perspective

3. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)		Aligned PLOs*
1	Knowledge and Understanding	
1.1	Demonstrate an understanding of policy futures, and the role of foresight and future-oriented thinking in policy development and implementation	K1
1.2	Acquire an advanced understanding of how future trends, uncertainties, and drivers of change can impact public policy and governance.	K2
1.3	Consider Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), in terms of how public and policy actors can consider the long-term environmental, social, and governance implications of their policies and practices.	K2
1.4	Understand how policymakers can think holistically and consider potential long-term consequences, trade-offs, and unintended effects of policy decisions and actions, as well as limitations thereof	K3
2	Skills:	
2.1	Integrate futures thinking tools and methods into policy design, formulation and decision-making processes.	S1
2.2	Evaluate policy instruments and tools for promoting anticipatory governance	S3
2.3	Apply Futures Literacy framework to policy design and approaches in ways that account for future uncertainties and promote flexibility and adaptive capacity	S4
3	Values:	
3.1	Apply policy futures thinking in policymaking processes, considering ethical, social, and participatory dimensions.	V2

* Program Learning Outcomes

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1	Introduction to Policy Futures: Principles, theories, frameworks and global drivers / megatrends	9
2	Practical methods and tools used in policy futures	9
3	Policy Design, Implementation & Evaluation in Future Context, including Stakeholder Engagement and Participatory Policy Futures	9
4	Practical Application and Project Work	12
5	Rehearsals of presentations and presentations	6
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	Demonstrate an understanding of policy futures, and the role of foresight and future-oriented thinking in policy development and implementation	Readings, Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Research Papers
1.2	Acquire an advanced understanding of how future trends, uncertainties, and drivers of change can impact public policy and governance.	Readings, Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Research Papers
1.3	Consideration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), in terms of how public and policy actors can consider the long-term environmental, social, and governance implications of their policies and practices.	Readings, Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Research Papers
1.4	To gain an understanding of how policymakers can think holistically and consider potential long-term consequences, trade-offs, and unintended effects of policy decisions and actions, as well as limitations thereof	Readings, Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Research Papers
2.0	Skills		
2.1	Ability to integrate futures thinking tools and methods into policy design, formulation and decision-making processes.	Readings, Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Research Papers
2.2	Ability to apply and evaluate policy instruments and tools for promoting anticipatory governance	Readings, Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Research Papers
2.3	Develop and apply Futures Literacy framework to policy design and approaches in ways that account for future uncertainties and promote flexibility and adaptive capacity	Readings, Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Research Papers
3.0	Values		
3.1	Exhibit self-directed and peer collaborative learning through effective communication skills	Class participation and Discussions	Written and oral presentation assessments, peer evaluations
3.2	Capable of analyzing, and applying policy futures thinking in policymaking processes, considering ethical, social, and participatory dimensions.	Lectures, Class participation and Discussions	Written and oral presentation assessments, peer evaluations

2. Assessment Tasks for Students

#	Assessment task*	Week Due	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Individual assignments and class participation	3, 6, 9, 12 ,	20%
2	Syndicate assignment	14	20%
3	Exam	16	40%
4	Research Paper	16	20%

*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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California100 & SOIF (2022). “Beyond Strategic Planning: Toolkit for Decision-Makers.” Link • Lyu, Hyeon-Suk (2020). “Designing new forms of governance.” Public Policy Review, Vol.1, Korea Institute of Public Administration. Link • Subject matter expert faculty member will determine best up-to-date textbooks, references, periodicals, and web resources prior to offering the course in accordance with course learning outcomes. • Course materials are subject to updates as part of the periodic assessment and development of curriculum.
Essential Reference Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone, Deborah (2001). Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making. • Fuerth, L. S. (2009). “Foresight and anticipatory governance.” Foresight. • Stirling, Andy (2006) “Anticipatory Governance and the Governance of Anticipation: A Review of the Literature” • Global case studies and best practices
Electronic Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course PowerPoint Presentations
Other Learning Materials	

2. Educational and research Facilities and Equipment Required

Item	Resources
Accommodation (Classrooms, laboratories, demonstration rooms/labs, etc.)	Classroom with computer, data projector and white / 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)	

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

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	