

Opasraportti

HUTK - Future Studies (2011 - 2012)

Future Studies

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Admission requirements

Courses in the Future Studies programme are organized by the Finland Futures Academy (FFA), which is a national education and research network. The Academy itself is co-ordinated by the Finland Futures Research Centre at the University of Turku.

In order to study at the FFA, students must have the study rights at one of the partner universities or institutes of higher education. Studies in the programme can be included in the student's elective studies. Students are free to complete individual courses or compile a study package of 25 ECTS credits. (nearly) equal to that of a subsidiary (minor) subject.

Study guidance

Study guidance in the University of Oulu is provided by University Lecturer, Erkki Urpilainen, tel. +358-8-553 3305, email: Erkki.Urpilainen@oulu.fi.

Future Studies

In many ways the point of departure in the Future Studies programme is the same as in the social sciences in general: it is based on society's need to increase the number of moral choices on the horizon and provide meaning to the choices we make in the present. However, those choices are always dependent on past developments and our previous choices. One could say that, for certain matters at least, we can follow the traces of our choices and their consequences far into the past—perhaps even hundreds of years back. In addition, the choices we make now are always intrinsically connected to the information we have at the moment as well as our view of the future. Additionally, the information and knowledge that societies or individuals use to make decisions are themselves dependent on history, culture, values as well as on the decision maker's level of education, character and experience.

The aim of Future Studies is to discover, evaluate and suggest possible or probable futures and thereby help people to go through the various alternative futures they want so that they can use this information in their decision making. In this way, it is possible to make effective plans to enhance the chances of achieving the best possible future. Futurologists use research and innovations from other disciplines when sketching out the various possible, probable and desirable futures that await us.

It is not possible to directly research the future. It does not exist in the same way as the present and past do. Instead, it exists in the present as intentions, which we can explore. We can also explore the matters and phenomena that will affect the future. The future is not predestined either. We can explore alternative paths of development so long as we remember that different outcomes have different levels of probability. Because it is possible to influence the quality of the future by individual decisions, it is naturally important to define what kind of choices lead to the best and most approved of state of the future. For that reason, discussion concerning values takes on essential importance in the Future Studies programme.

Study packages and learning outcomes

Upon completion of the study package, students have a conception of the academic tradition in the research of the future, a basic knowledge of the academic thought on the future, and knowledge of the central concepts and methods in the discipline. Students can explain the significance of methodological choices in research as well as the connections between theoretical approaches, points of departure concerning philosophy of science and methods. They can apply the perspectives and methods of their expertise in Future Studies in their own research.

Courses

Basic Studies (25 ECTS credits)

700710P How Can We Explore the Future? (6 ECTS credits)

700711P Futures Research Methods (8 ECTS credits)

700712P Futures Research in Practice (3–8 ECTS credits)

700713P Changing Futures Theme (3–8 ECTS credits)

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

700713P: Changing futures theme, 5 op

700712P: Futures Research in Practice, 3 - 8 op

700711P: Futures research methods, 8 op

700710P: How can we explore the future?, 6 op

Opintojaksojen kuvaukset

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomien opintokokonaisuuksien ja -jaksojen kuvaukset

700713P: Changing futures theme, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Leikkaavuudet:

ay700713P Changing futures theme (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

3-8

Language of instruction:

English

Timing:

Free

Learning outcomes:

By participating in an international conference, students deepen their knowledge of Future Studies by familiarizing themselves with the latest international research trends.

Mode of delivery:

Web-based teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Finland Futures Academy (FFA) together with the Finland Futures Research Centre organizes a summer course every year during the international conference. The structure of teaching in the course follows the themes in the conference and students are expected to participate in the presentation events and workshops in the conference

Target group:

Students minoring in Future Studies

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

Successful completion How Can We Explore the Future? (700710P) and Futures Research Methods (700711P) required

Assessment methods and criteria:

Participation in the conference and an essay

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Erkki Urpilainen

Working life cooperation:

No

700712P: Futures Research in Practice, 3 - 8 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

3 - 8

Language of instruction:

Finnish and English

Timing:

Free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students can analyse their surroundings with a future-orientated perspective and are able to apply Future Studies methods in the examination of present phenomena.

Contents:

Independent project in which students apply the Future Studies methods in examination of their own field

Mode of delivery:

Blended learning

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Hybrid course consisting of contact, intensive and distant teaching/learning

Target group:

Students minoring in Future Studies

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

Successful completion of How Can We Explore the Future? (700710P) and Futures Research Methods (700711P) required

Recommended or required reading:

Learning material in the virtual learning environment

Assessment methods and criteria:

Independent project

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Erkki Urpilainen

Working life cooperation:

No

700711P: Futures research methods, 8 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

8

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

Free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students can apply all the central qualitative methods in Future Studies.

Contents:

Studying the qualitative methods in Future Studies, such as Soft Systems Methodology, Delphi Method and various participatory methods

Mode of delivery:

Blended learning

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Hybrid course consisting of contact, intensive and distant teaching/learning

Target group:

Students minoring in Future Studies

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

Successful completion of How Can We Explore the Future? (700710P) required

Recommended or required reading:

Learning materials in the virtual learning environment

Assessment methods and criteria:

Assignments on the web and a book exam

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Erkki Urpilainen

Working life cooperation:

No

700710P: How can we explore the future?, 6 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

6

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

Free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students can define what future-orientated thinking is and what the basic principles of Future Studies are. They can also apply scenario methods in making forecasting various possible futures.

Contents:

Studying the basic principles of Future Studies and scenario methods

Mode of delivery:

Blended learning

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Hybrid course consisting of contact, intensive and distant teaching/learning

Target group:

Students minoring in Future Studies

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Learning materials in the virtual learning environment

Assessment methods and criteria:

Independent self-study assignments on the web and a group project

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Erkki Urpilainen

Working life cooperation:

No