



Course Title: Futurist Leadership: Thrive during Times of Accelerated Change

Course Code: BUS 300

Instructor: Elatia Abate

Course Summary

Futurist thinking is now a vital skill in our rapidly changing world whose pace of change has moved from incremental to exponential to instantaneous. It not only helps us survive, but gives us and our organizations the power to thrive, by helping us create opportunities within our personal lives and workplaces.

In this course, participants will explore different perspectives of futurist thinking, as well as five concrete tools that can help turn trends into tangible results.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Note About Live Attendance and Recording

These class sessions will not be recorded.

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

**Due to its short format, this course may not be taken for Credit or a Letter Grade. If you require proof of participation, your instructor will provide Certificates of Attendance. Please contact the instructor after completing the class. The Continuing Studies office does not issue these certificates.*

Textbooks/Required Materials

There is no required reading.

A partial list of texts and websites for exploring include:

Texts

- Adizes, Ichak. *Mastering Change: The Power of Mutual Trust and Respect in Personal Life, Family Life, Business and Society*
- Dalio, Ray. *Principles for Dealing with The Changing World Order: Why Nations Succeed and Fail*
- Diamandis, Peter + Stephen Kotler. *The Future is Faster Than You Think*
- Eislser, Riane. *The Real Wealth of Nations*

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
 365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
 continuingstudies@stanford.edu
 650-725-2650

- Kaku, Michio. *The Future of the Mind: The Scientific Quest to Understand, Enhance, and Empower the Mind*
- Powers, Devon. *On Trend: The Business of Forecasting the Future*

Websites

- Biomimicry Institute: Humanity's biggest challenges meet nature's proven solutions
- Femme Futurists Society: Conversations with the world's leading female futurists
- Learn Biomimicry: Learn how to apply biomimicry to your work and life
- Singularity University: Helping leaders adapt to big change and leverage tech to improve the lives of a billion people in the next 5 years
- Transdisciplinary Agora for Future Discussions: Transdisciplinary global community of futurists collaborating to solve humanity's biggest challenges

Tentative Outline

Session 1

- Explore what futurists are and differing perspectives in thinking and problem solving
- Learn Futurist Leadership Maturity Model
- Cover first two Futurist Leadership Tools
 - Systems Thinking
 - Making sense of complexity by exploring how macro trend shifts can shape the world and market
 - Law of Accelerating Returns
 - Dynamics of Convergence
 - Paradigm Shifts
 - Multidisciplinary Approach
 - Pulling best practices of thinking and solution-seeking from industries and approaches outside of our own can help us build more robust strategies
 - Bioinspired design / Biomimicry
 - Quantum Physics

Session 2

- Cover final three Futurist Leadership Tools, including:
 - Curiosity
 - Exploring different models of experimentation that can lead to new and interesting discoveries and improved results
 - Cognitive Capacity
 - How we consciously decide (or not) to train and use our brains can impact our leadership capabilities
 - Limitless Leadership
 - Examine how antiquated approaches to leadership can shift to help us thrive in an era of increasing disruption
 - Learn three new leadership abilities designed in and for the Fourth Industrial Revolution