

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES

**IE University**

Professor: **JOEL BLANCO MARTÍNEZ**

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Academic year: 20-21

Degree course: THIRD

Semester: 1º

Category: COMPULSORY

Number of credits: 6.0

Language: English

## PREREQUISITES

There are no specific prerequisites for this course, but be willing to discuss and think out loud.

## SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Anything we do has an impact, on either a small or a large scale. As the butterfly effect suggests; the flapping of the wings of a butterfly can influence a tornado in a complex weather model. Global challenges are large scale confrontations that affect the global community such as politics, environment, economics, and society. However, each large effect may have a small cause. The goal of this course is to have the students acquire a broad vision of all the different forces that are shaping our world, departing from the individual. Through the lens of design, these challenges are often seen as problems that need solving, this course instead will offer lateral thinking as a methodology to perceive these ongoing events as a context to visualise possible future scenarios and foresee opportunities.

## OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

### Objectives:

- To envision innovation in a critical manner.
- Analyze in a critical and creative way the contemporary challenges and the cultural and social complexity of the international society.
- To achieve knowledge about the forces that are shaping the world.
- To be able to develop speculative narratives.
- To use lateral thinking when approaching problems or challenges.
- Communicate ideas and concepts in the most effective way.
- Achieve a diagonal way to look at things, in order to then take a distance from 'vertical logic' and understand challenges as opportunities.

### Skills:

- Critical thinking & lateral thinking.
- To be able to gather and interpret relevant data to make judgments that include a reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues.
- Scenario writing & world building.
- To create coherent narratives and envisioning different plots and chains of events.
- To consciously look for the causality of things

## **METHODOLOGY**

The course consists of a blend of reading-based and discussion seminars and the engagement with practical activities, group work, and in-class discussions and assignments. Each seminar will start with readings followed by debates and practical activities. Students are expected to have read the texts that the teacher will talk about before each session, and they are asked to prepare research, presentations, and scenarios in their individual study hours that they will share with the class. Students will be encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas in relation to the issues presented in each seminar.

The class sessions will rely on a combination of the below course formats:

- Readings and Lectures, Discussion Sessions, Student Presentations and Student Debates.

Students will dedicate their individual study hours to:

- Individual Research, Preparation of Assignments and Tasks.

<b>Teaching methodology</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in</b>
Lectures	13.33 %	20 hours
Discussions	20.0 %	30 hours
Exercises	26.67 %	40 hours
Group work	26.67 %	40 hours
Other individual studying	13.33 %	20 hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Compulsory

- . *The readings assigned for each seminar are mandatory.* . ISBN 0000000000 (Electronic)

### Recommended

- Isaac Asimov. *The Foundation Trilogy*. ISBN 0000000000 (Printed)
- Matthew Engelke. *How to Think Like an Anthropologist*. Pelican Books. ISBN 0000000000 (Printed)
- Patrick Dixon,. *The Future Of Almost Everything*. Profile Books. ISBN 0000000000 (Printed)
- Adam Greenfield. *Radical Technologies: The Design of Everyday Life*. Verso. ISBN 0000000000 (Printed)
- Anya Bernstein. *The Future of Inmortality*. Princeton. ISBN 0000000000 (Electronic)
- Whitney Philips. *This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things: Mapping the Relationship Between Online Trolling (...)*. ISBN 0000000000 (Printed)
- SLAVOJ ZIZEK. *Pandemia*. ISBN 0000000000 (Printed)
- Eugene Thacker. *In The Dust Of This Planet*. ISBN 0000000000 (Printed)

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Percentage	Comments
Final Exam	30 %	Project's deliverables
Class Participation	20 %	Interventions and comments during the lectures and debates are highly encouraged

Individual Work	20 %	Every week the students will have to research by their own and few of them will have to share with the group
Group Presentation	30 %	Grupal presentation of the final project.

## PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: **JOEL BLANCO MARTÍNEZ**

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Joel is an inactive member of Pokemon's generation, junk food expert, and designer. His work usually begins with theory and research before being materialized into carefree projects. He helps organizations to envision a brave new world, where the norms of pasts and presents society no longer exist, and many of today's problems have disappeared simultaneously.

Joel is a Product Designer, with a Contextual Design, MA degree from Design Academy Eindhoven, and a BA in Product Design at IED Madrid.

## OTHER INFORMATION

Office hours under appointment.

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