

Browse Business Business Essentials

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This course is part of the **Futures Thinking Specialization**



Ready, Set, Future! Introduction to Futures Thinking

★★★★★ 4.8 1,010 ratings | 👍 96%



Jane McGonigal

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About this Course

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Do you want to think about the future with more creativity and optimism? Do you want to see what's coming faster, so you can be better prepared for disruptions and more in control of your future? Do you want to get better at changing what's possible today – in your company, your industry, your community, and in your own life?

This course will introduce you to the practice of futures thinking, as developed and applied for the past 50 years by the Institute for the Future, a Silicon-Valley-based research and learning group founded in 1968. In this course, you'll build your understanding of what futures thinking is and what you can do with it. You'll master essential foresight techniques. You'll meet some professional futurists. And you'll choose one or more future topics you want to investigate with your new foresight skills.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

This course is for anyone who wants to spot opportunities for innovation and invention faster. You can gain the skills and confidence to help YOU become someone who makes the future, instead of letting the future happen to you.

- ✓ Define futures thinking and give examples of futures
- ✓ Collect and analyze signals of change

Many thanks to the Enlight Foundation and the Enlight Collaborative, which provided a grant to support the creation of this course.

- ✓ Identify historical change in the past to predict new changes in the future
- ✓ Learn how to avoid future shock - and help others avoid it, too!

SKILLS YOU WILL GAIN

Foresight Creativity Strategic Thinking Innovation Leadership

Flexible c
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Earn a Certific

100% onl
Start instantly

Course 1
Futures Think

Beginner
This course is required.

Approx. ' 1

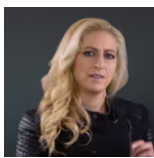
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Instructor rating 🌟 4.87/5 (394 Ratings) ⓘ



Jane McGonigal
Research Director

👤 52,836 Learners
📖 6 Courses

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Institute for the Future

The Institute for the Future is the world's leading futures thinking organization. For over 50 years, businesses, governments and social impact organizations have depended upon IFTF global forecasts, custom research, and foresight training to navigate complex change and develop world-ready strategies for the future.



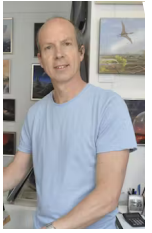
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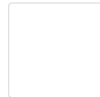
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Institute for the Future

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Syllabus - What you will learn from this course

Content Rating 🍌 96% (6,992 ratings) ⓘ

WEEK

3 hours to complete

1

Welcome to the Future

The adventure begins! This week, you'll meet some professional futurists and learn: What is futures thinking? What are the benefits of futures thinking? Where can you put your new skills to use? By the end of this week, you'll be ready to choose your own future topics to explore throughout the course.

9 videos (Total 42 min), 7 readings, 4 quizzes [See All](#)

WEEK

3 hours to complete

2

Signals of Change

This week, you'll learn how to collect and work with signals of change. Signals are the most important "raw material" of futures thinking. First, we'll look at signals and how we found them. Then, it's your turn: Collect and analyze signals related to your own future topic.

7 videos (Total 43 min), 2 readings, 3 quizzes [See All](#)

WEEK

2 hours to complete

3

Look Back to Look Forward

It's time to strengthen your futures thinking skills by thinking about the past. It sounds strange, but to be a good futurist, you have to be a good historian. We'll learn how to use our most powerful tool for "looking back to look forward."

3 videos (Total 17 min), 4 readings, 2 quizzes [See All](#)

WEEK

3 hours to complete

4

Four Types of Futures Thinking

This week, you'll learn: What are the four different types of futures thinking, and when should you use each type? You'll also try out a fun "Future Square" game. This tool will help you dig deeper on your own future topic... whatever you're interested in exploring the future of! Finally, you'll think about the future. After all, the best way to learn something new is to teach someone else!

7 videos (Total 29 min), 4 readings, 3 quizzes [See All](#)

Reviews

4.8 ★★★★★
358 reviews

5 stars	88.54%
4 stars	9.08%
3 stars	1.38%
2 stars	0.29%
1 star	0.69%

TOP REVIEWS FROM READY, SET, FUTURE! INTRODUCTION TO FUTURES THINKING

★★★★★
by WB Mar 19, 2022

Everybody needs to acquire the skills, insight and learn how to use the tools to create a vision of the future now and successfully exist in it!

★★★★★
by AS Dec 18, 2019

Really interesting course about the tools of foresight- lightweight, lively and interesting, with clear and satisfying a the next course!

★★★★★
by SD Aug 2, 2021

A very well curated course videos and enjoyable along wide fun way to understand and imagine the future of the world been wonderful. Cheers

★★★★★
by SM Jan 4, 2022

very well done - loved the videos and the reading material and the quizzes and assignments - a course that really helps skills and make the learning enjoyable

[View all reviews](#)

About the Futures Thinking Specialization

Do you want to think about the future with more creativity and optimism? Do you want to see what's coming faster, so you can be better prepared for disruptions and more in control of your future? Do you want to get better at changing what's possible today – in your company, your industry, your community, and in your own life?

The specialization will introduce you to the practice of futures thinking, as developed and applied for the past 50 years by the Institute for the Future, a Silicon-Valley-based research and learning group founded in 1968. You'll master essential foresight techniques. You'll meet leading professional futurists. And you'll choose one or more future topics you want to investigate with your new foresight skills. The Futures Thinking specialization is for anyone who wants to spot opportunities for innovation and invention faster. You can gain the skills and confidence to help YOU become someone who makes the future, instead of letting the future happen to you. You'll develop a more future-oriented mindset to make positive changes in your own life, as you start to see new possibilities more clearly and craft the personal future you want. This specialization is based on the "How to Think Like a Futurist" workshops taught by Jane McGonigal, PhD for Stanford University Continuing Studies. By taking this specialization, you'll have access to key lessons and tools from the Institute for the Future's professional "Foresight Training" certification program.



Start Learning Today

- ✓ This Course Plus the Full Specialization
- ✓ Shareable Certificates
- ✓ Self-Paced Learning Option
- ✓ Course Videos & Readings
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- ✓ Graded Assignments with Peer Feedback
- ✓ Graded Quizzes with Feedback
- ✓ Graded Programming Assignments

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You can share your Course Certificates in the Certifications section of your LinkedIn profile, on printed resumes, CVs, or other documents.

Frequently Asked Questions

> When will I have access to the lectures and assignments?

> What will I get if I subscribe to this Specialization?

> Is financial aid available?

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