

Lesson	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
1.1	Tue 12 Aug	<b>Introduction to the course and Assignments 1 and 2</b>	Introduction of Krznaric, R. (2024). <i>History for tomorrow: Inspiration from the past for the future of humanity.</i>
1.2	Fri 15 Aug	Why look to the past, and why care about the future	Introduction of Scheffler, S., & Kolodny, N. (2013). <i>Death and the afterlife.</i>
2.1	Tue 19 Aug	<b>Human History</b> Tracing the long arc of human development and the shaping of our niche	Chapter 7 - The Beginnings of Human History in Christian, D. (2011). <i>Maps of time: An introduction to big history.</i>
2.2	Fri 22 Aug		Chapter 2 - Accumulating Cognitive Capital in Sterelny, K. (2012). <i>The evolved apprentice: How evolution made humans unique.</i>
3.1	Tue 26 Aug	<b>Cultural anthropology</b> What sets humans apart from other species?	Rochat, P. (2006). What does it mean to be human? <i>Journal of Anthropological Psychology</i> , 17, 100-107.
3.2	Fri 29 Aug		Tomasello, Michael (2010) Human Culture in Evolutionary Perspective. in Michele J. Gelfand, Chi-yue Chiu, and Ying-yi Hong (eds), <i>Advances in Culture and Psychology: Volume 1.</i> - change
4.1	Tue 2 Sep	<b>Axiology</b> (values in general, and not moral values) What is value? - sets the conceptual groundwork for later readings.	pp. 169-173 of Korsgaard, C. M. (1983). Two distinctions in goodness. <i>The Philosophical Review</i> , 92(2), 169-195.
4.2	Fri 5 Sep	How do we evaluate possible futures?	Danaher, J. (2021). Axiological futurism: The systematic study of the future, <i>Futures</i> , 132, 102780.
5.1	Tue 9 Sep	<b>PAPER CONSULTATIONS</b>	
5.2	Fri 12 Sep	<b>Future Generations</b> Why does the future matter to us — even beyond our lifetimes?	pp. 15-32 of Lecture 1: The Afterlife (Part I) in Scheffler, S., & Kolodny, N. (2013). <i>Death and the afterlife</i> .
6.1	Tue 16 Sep	Can we genuinely care about the far future?	pp 32-49 of Lecture 1: The Afterlife (Part I) in Scheffler, S., & Kolodny, N. (2013). <i>Death and the afterlife</i> .
6.2	Fri 19 Sep		Schramme, T. (2024). Empathy with future generations? <i>Topoi</i> , 43(1), 29–37.
<b>RECESS WEEK</b>			
7.1	Tue 30 Sep	<b>Introduction to moonshots and Assignments 3 and 4</b>	<a href="https://www.forbes.com/councils/forbestechcouncil/2021/01/21/should-you-pursue-the-moonshot/">https://www.forbes.com/councils/forbestechcouncil/2021/01/21/should-you-pursue-the-moonshot/</a>  <a href="https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/moonshot/top.html">https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/moonshot/top.html</a>
7.2	Fri 3 Oct	<b>On speculation</b> Speculative thinking as a scientific and philosophical activity	Boden, M. A. (1998). Creativity and artificial intelligence. <i>Artificial Intelligence</i> , 103(1–2), 347–356.
8.1	Tue 7 Oct		Bostrom, Nick (2009). The future of humanity. In Jan Kyrre Berg Olsen Friis, Evan Selinger & Søren Riis (eds.), <i>New waves in philosophy of technology.</i>
8.2	Fri 10 Oct	<b>Ethics and responsibility</b> Moral status, dilemmas, and decision-making	Chapter 11 - The Moral Status of Future Artificial Intelligence in Schwitzgebel, E. (2024), <i>The Weirdness of the World</i> (pp. 229-252). Princeton: Princeton University Press.
9.1	Tue 14 Oct		Wright, D., Finn, R., Gellert, R., Gutwirth, S., Schütz, P., Friedewald, M., Venier, S., & Mordini, E. (2014). Ethical dilemma scenarios and emerging technologies. <i>Technological Forecasting and Social Change</i> , 87, 325–336.
9.2	Fri 17 Oct	<b>Recognising pitfalls</b> Assessing our assumptions	Milojević, I. (2021). "Futures Fallacies: What They Are and What We Can Do About Them." <i>Journal of Futures Studies</i> , 25(4), 1–16.
10.1	Tue 21 Oct	<b>NUS WELLBEING DAY - no classes</b>	
10.2	Fri 24 Oct	<b>PROJECT CONSULTATIONS</b>	
11.1	Tue 28 Oct	<b>Changing the future: Feasibility and responsibility</b> Reflective lead-in to final presentations.	Moor, J. H. (2005). Why we need better ethics for emerging technologies. <i>Ethics and Information Technology</i> , 7(3), 111–119.
11.2	Fri 31 Oct	What change is feasible, desirable, and responsible?	Chapter 8 - Reclaiming the Future in Jasanoff, S. (2016). <i>The ethics of invention: Technology and the human future</i> .
12.1	Tue 4 Nov	<b>PROJECT PRESENTATIONS</b>	
12.2	Fri 7 Nov	Course Wrap Up	
13.1	Tue 11 Nov	No lessons	
13.2	Fri 15 Nov	No lessons	
<b>READING WEEK</b>			