HON 395e                                       Spring 2010

Kotkin Presidential Fellow Seminar:
A History of the Future

Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor.
The purpose of this course is to understand the trajectory of history and how such a model can be applied to the future. The class will include a discussion of historical causation through the years; visions of the future through time; novelistic approaches to the future; and present future discourse. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Essential Equipment and Facilities: Seminar-style classroom with computer equipment.

Course Objectives:
• This course will enable students to develop a wide historical understanding not only of how things evolved, but how people thought they would evolve.
• Students will learn how time and history have been viewed differently in ancient cultures, as well as with the onset of the industrial and technological revolutions.
• Students will learn how to understand both the past and present, by learning how we see and view the future.
• Students will discover how to apply religious, planning, economics and technology perspectives to understanding the future.

Content:
• Classics in the Future
• Futurological Classics of the Industrial Era
• The Technological Era
• The Road Ahead
• There will be several field trips to actually “see” the future, including exposure to new development perspectives, cultural change, and terms of entertainment, or “virtual reality”.

Current Required Texts:
Asimov, Isaac, Caves of Steel, 1953
Bellamy, Edward, Looking Backward, 1888
Instructional Strategies:
The class will include discussions of readings and possible film screenings as well as individual meetings with the instructor. There will be at least one or two field trips.

Methods of Evaluation:
Midterm exam
Final exam
Final class project and presentation; may be in written form, PowerPoint, or video.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Students with Disabilities Policy:
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Prepared by:
Joel Kotkin, Fall 2009

Last revised:
Joel Kotkin, Spring 2010