

Information sheet on Decolonizing the Imaginary Other Futures Free Course

Important

Submitting the form doesn't guarantee a spot on the class. Spots are limited and class sizes will be determined according to the total number of applicants. People who aren't selected for the course on May will be put on a waiting list and contacted later.

1. Technical specs

The course will have two classes happening weekly in the span of two weeks. Dates to be defined.

Classes will happen on Tuesdays from 1600 UTC to 1730UTC (unless changed in later communications).

Meetings will be held via Jitsi, no login needed.

Participants **must** disclose their pronouns next to their names during calls (e.g.: Blossom - she/her).

Cameras aren't mandatory or expected.

Classes won't be recorded by the instructor.

There are no certificates, documents or tokens issued from the full participation on the course.

1.1. Conditions & terms of use

Personal information of the participants (names, email addresses, timezones) will be manually collected for the purpose of establishing current and future communications regarding the course.

Participants won't be put on any mailing list without their previous consent.

No digital recordings of the class that collect identifiable information from any participant or the instructor can be done without previous consent.

There will be no tolerance for hate speech, racism, sexism, transphobia or any other hateful discourse against under-represented minorities. Participants who engage in hate speech will be banned from the course permanently.

1.2 Recording classes

Before making any type of recordings (e.g.: screenshots, video recordings and audio recordings) participants **must** inform class attendants and get consensus on their consent to being recorded.

If a participant chooses to independently record the classes, they have authorization to share with others for educational purposes without any financial compensation.

Participants agree that no content of the classes may ever be run under any instance through LLMs (this includes, asking for summaries and transcriptions).

2. Goals

Expose the history of our current idea of "future" through critical analysis of the philosophical and social narratives involved in the creation and development of this concept.

Exemplify contemporary instances of the current prevailing narrative around the "future" through works of art, cinema, politics, and pop culture.

Introduce alternative understandings of the "future" and explain the thinking process and philosophical approach behind these ideas.

Offer participants the basic vocabulary and framework to enable informed assessments on themes of current urgency (e.g.: climate change, mass surveillance, digital technology, post-truth politics).

3. Structure

3.1. Context: Historical overview and cultural analysis

Core questions

- What is the future as we understand it?
- Who gets to make the future?
- Who shaped the future that we live in?
- Where/what and how do we learn about the future?

Core themes

- The idea of "future" as a modern invention and its consequences.
- Enlightenment, progress, evolution and other important concepts for understanding our idea of "future".
- How the idea of "future" became so entangled with technological development.
- How has the idea of "future" been used to infer cultural conformity and justify the prevalence of inequalities.
- How is the general imagination around "future" colonized by media and politics.
- What are the current prevailing narratives about the "future", who is creating them and why.

Core concepts

Enlightenment, late-capitalism, statuos-quo, hegemonic media, post-truth, mass surveillance, accelerationism

3.2. Critical thinking: a change of perspective

Core questions

- Can we dream of a future beyond what we already know?
- Can we fundamentally change how we see the future?
- Who are the futures we dream for?
- What are the limits of "collective" solutions?
- What can we do about the future we seem to be headed towards?

Core themes

- Alternative visualizations of timelines
- Considering alternative sources of knowledge to Western philosophy
- Considering the limitations of human cognition and challenging its boundaries
- Interspecies interactions and other living beings as agents of change
- Observation and experience: the power of the complex and unknown
- Resistance: understanding the scale and power of civil action
- Possible practices to imagine and create new futures
- References of people and initiatives involved in this discussion

Core concepts

Post-humanism, complexity, decolonization, solarpunk, community, creative practice, sustainability, collaboration

4. Disclaimer on LLM use

The course was entirely made without the use of any LLMs.

The information shared on this course was curated from research done independently over the last five years. Every film, book, article, video, and essay was carefully considered by the instructor and all of the conclusions, ideas, and insights were the result of a long and conscious process of study and reflection.

Every image, content and word used in this course and it's advertisement has been developed completely without the use of any LLM service.

Participants of the course are asked to continue to honor this practice and elaborate their future personal projects without the intervention of LLMs.

Send questions to [hello\[at\]sunomono.club](mailto:hello@sunomono.club)