

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Paper S-134

MEMORANDUM

SM 118/68

Secretary, Senate

From A.R. MacKinnon

Dean of Education

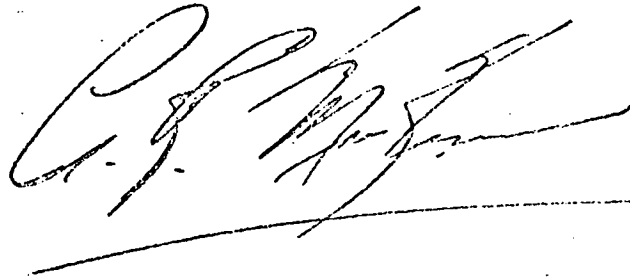
Subject New Course - ESF 427-5

Date April 29, 1968

Attached is information on a new course entitled ESF 427-5 "The Behavioural Sciences and the Study of the Future", which was approved by the Faculty of Education at its meeting on Monday, April 29, 1968.

It is requested that Senate give approval to this course so that it can begin September 1968.

Att.



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The Behavioural Sciences Foundation requests approval for the following course addition:

B.S.F. 427-E "The Behavioural Sciences and the Study of the Future"

Course Description (For Information)

This course is designed to analyze the important questions and problems facing the future of man and to assess the role of the behavioural sciences in planning for tomorrow. (3-2-0)

(Admission by written permission of the Faculty)

Comments: For Information

What is the nature of the future? How well can it be predicted? "The answer," Daniel Bell suggests, "is not whether one can or cannot predict, but what kinds of things one can predict, and with what state of confidence." What, then, do we want to predict? What do we want to know about tomorrow? Clearly, there is no one theory of the future to give sole guidance; there are only various competing theories about many different futures. The theory or theories, however, to which we give allegiance will necessarily guide our attempts to control or to direct the future. Perhaps our thoughts and actions will be too late, or too mild, or too irrelevant to make much positive impact on the outcome. And after all, it is highly unreasonable to suggest that any one of us can make much of an impact on the human condition. Granted, but unfortunately, there is no one else.

Some Topics for Consideration:

1. On the seriousness of the future: An Overview
 - (a) Does history have direction?
 - (b) What is progress?
 - (c) Toward a theory of time.
 - (d) The Post-industrial Society.
2. Problems in thinking about the future.
 - (a) The art of conjecture.
 - (b) Determinativity
 - (c) Toward the year 2,000
3. The politics of the Future
 - (a) Politics of tomorrow; the military establishment; the scientists; the technocracy; the meritocracy.

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4. Man in the Controlled Society: Miscellaneous observations
(a) Reflections on the mass media.
(b) The nature of privacy.
(c) Biological planning.
5. Toward World Order.

Basic Reading

Herman Kahn & A. Wiener

The Year 2000
New York: Macmillan 1957

Kenneth E. Boulding

The Meaning of the Twentieth Century
New York, Harper Colophon Books, 1954

"Toward the Year 2000: Work in Progress", Daedalus Vol: 96:3

Robert Heilbroner

The Future as History
New York: Harper & Bros. 1959

Harrison Brown

The Challenge of Man's Future
New York, Viking 1954