

CHRIST UMC FALL 2024 CLASS

Future Values: Geopolitical Shifts and Changing Technology *From Global Chaos to Personal Clarity*

Dates: Wednesdays, September 11 – October 23, 2024 (no class October 2, 2024)

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Instructor: Faye Lincoln

Location: Christ UMC Chapel/Room 100 (2375 E 3300 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84109)

Description:

Course Overview

The world appears to be in chaos and it's hard to make sense of it! But underneath society's accelerating change, driven by shifts in global geopolitics and changing technology, a new order is beginning to develop. Using powerful visuals, this course will help you connect the dots to understand the impact of these changes.

We will apply a new model of future values to energy solutions linked to the Russia-Ukraine war, to supply chain issues impacted by the rising tensions between the U.S. and China, and to technology use in education as well as social media liability. We will evaluate newly emerging models in scientific research based on Operation Warp Speed, artificial intelligence (AI) and genomics in drug research, and internet space technology, as well as the ethics of big data and algorithms. An evolutionary framework of societal values will be used, bringing ancient biblical history alive against contemporary challenges - economic, geopolitical, and technological.

Course Overview:

Class members will:

1. Gain an increased appreciation and awareness of the evolutionary pattern of **societal values** that developed over the millennia from ancient Israelite history to today and identify a new set of **future values** to apply to geopolitics and technology.
2. Review the most salient **geopolitical shifts** occurring in society involving energy in the Russia-Ukraine War as well as the tensions between the U.S. and China in the semiconductor and electric battery/ vehicle (EV) industries.

CHRIST UMC FALL 2024 CLASS

3. Understand the most significant changes occurring in the field of **digital technology** including education, scientific discovery, social media liability, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI).
4. Apply future values to understanding global shifts, driven by technology and geopolitical crises and constraints. This will include:
 - new patterns of energy use and alternative energy development,
 - industrial shifts in semiconductor manufacturing and the EV industry,
 - emerging new models in scientific advancement and internet space technology,
 - the dark side of AI and big data in education, the opioid crisis, and digital auction blocks.

Week 1: Overview-Values That Shape the World: Identifying Future Values

- Evaluate the evolutionary development of societal values in ancient Israel throughout biblical history related to values of today
- Discover how rich stories and history relate to values and challenges we face in post- modern society
- Search for future values to guide the challenges of our current society with accelerating technology, scientific advancement, and innovation
- Applying future values to today's challenges of accelerating technology, crises, constraints, and political divide.

Week 2: Forging New Global Economic Alliances: The Russia-Ukraine War's Impact on Energy Solutions

- Overview of values in governance and leadership: Russia vs. Ukraine
- The great geopolitical divide: Authoritarianism vs. democratic freedom
- War related to energy and natural resource connections
- Future values applied: Innovation and order out of the chaos of war.

Week 3: Laying New Foundations for Technology in Education and Social Media Platforms

- Values in education: Remote learning with the COVID pandemic and cost impacts of higher education
- Challenges using technology in education: internet and computer access, access to higher education, countries that are speeding ahead and falling behind, ChatGPT
- New solutions learned from the pandemic; innovations in technology and education
- Impact of social media platforms: building a new foundation of understanding between free speech and societal harm. We will explore the legal, legislative, and social controversies of this technology and how values can be applied to the moral nuances of internet content and artificial intelligence.

CHRIST UMC FALL 2024 CLASS

Week 4: Supply Chain Constraints US vs. China

- Values of peace vs. war: geopolitics creating tension and constraints on supply chains
- China: Governance structures, Belt & Road Initiative, and Made in China 2025 (MIC2025)
- US, Taiwan, and China: The global semiconductor industry and new opportunities
- Electric vehicles: Applying new solutions to supply chain constraints—semiconductors and lithium batteries—US vs. China

Week 5: Emerging Models in Scientific Advancement

- Emerging new models: aligning economics for the greater good—innovative solutions for meeting societal challenges
- Operation Warp Speed: Emerging ecosystems where government and industry partner collaboratively to benefit society
- The power of open digital systems in scientific advancement
- The power of AI and big data in the development of pharmaceuticals—cutting edge technology
- Quantum computing and digital space internet technology

Week 6: The Ethics of Big Data-Can Values Guide Technology?

- The balance between creativity and accountability in technology
- Should personal information used for big data analytics be a privacy right?
- The flow of big data in digital advertising-do you know where your data is going?
- When big data is used in selling pharmaceuticals-the opioid epidemic
- Should companies make money off your data?

Suggested reading (none required)

Faye Lincoln, *Values That Shape the World* (Dialog Press, 2021, 2022)

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