# *Nonfiction Book List*

The following nonfiction books approach the future from a variety of perspectives. I own all of these works and am happy to lend any to you for the semester. You may choose one of these books or another not on this list as long as you clear it with me first.

*Beyond Earth: The Future of Humans in Space* by Bob Krone. 2006. 296 pages.
Providing a foundation for space planners and anyone interested in human settlement in the solar system, this book theorizes about the near future, when the heretofore significant steps of humankind—traveling to the moon and building space stations—will be dwarfed by new progress. Scholars and scientists raise and answer such questions as *Why does space matter to us? What will ordinary life be like in space?* and *What will our homes be like on Mars or the Moon?* This collection of findings by professionals documents important research, laying the bricks for space-faring civilizations and even consults future space-dwellers—kids—for their visions. Working from the assumption that humankind has a biological need to explore and improve the quality of life, the wide variety of contributors successfully argue that space as a future human habitat is not simply possible, but manifest.

*A Brief History of the Future: How Visionary Thinkers Changed the World and Tomorrow's Trends are 'Made' and Marketed* by Oona Strathern. 2007. 320 pages.
Whether for economic, personal, or political reasons, people have always wanted to know what the future will bring, and there have been no lack of people to tell us. *A Brief History of the Future* chronicles the most influential futurists over the years, from Delphi's virgin visionaries, to pop futurists, science fiction writers, trend gurus, and evolutionary experts. Rich with detail and anecdote, *A Brief History of the Future* is a unique and fascinating book that looks behind the scenes at how tomorrow's trends are being identified, "made" and marketed today.

*Critical Mass: A Primer for Living with the Future* by Pat McGrew, Bill McDaniel. 2000. 141 pages.
Authors Pat McGrew and Bill McDaniel have written a highly engaging work which successfully makes sense out of the technological sea-changes rocking our world. Grabbing the reader by the collar, *Critical Mass* provides an informed perspective on where those changes have taken us, and where we are headed next. Rather than a mere laundry-list of technical advances, this work relates these changes to the fabric of everyday existence. Rather than just a recitation of different technologies past and present, *Critical Mass* asks the What if? and What then? questions that allow the reader to glimpse possible and probable futures.

*Design Like You Give a Damn: Architectural Responses to Humanitarian Crises*
by Architecture for Humanity; Kate Stohr, Cameron Sinclair, eds. 2006. 336 pages. Heavily illustrated.
The greatest humanitarian challenge we face today is that of providing shelter. Currently one in seven people lives in a slum or refugee camp, and more than 3,000,000,000 people--nearly half the world's population--do not have access to clean water or adequate sanitation. The physical design of our homes, neighborhoods and communities shapes every aspect of our lives. Yet too often architects are desperately needed in the places where they can least be afforded. Edited by Architecture for Humanity and now on its third printing, *Design Like You Give a Damn* is a compendium of innovative projects from around the world that demonstrate the power of design to improve lives.

*Entering Space: Creating a Spacefaring Civilization* by Robert Zubrin. 2000. 305 pages.
Astronautical engineer Zubrin stirred up more than a few imaginations with his 1996 *The Case for Mars*, which explained how and why humans could visit the red planet cheaply and soon. Zubrin's confident followup divides its predictions and programs into three sections: the first covers near-term projects in Earth orbit, with a view to commercial possibilities. The second part takes on the Moon, Mars, asteroids and the outer solar system, and the third adopts an optimistic view of interstellar travel and extraterrestrial life. Zubrin's range can amaze: he begins with the Space Shuttle (misguided and inefficient, he argues) and ends with speculation about how humanity might "change the laws of the universe." In between, Zubrin (privy to some of the dealings involved) shows how American politics quashed recent chances of cheap space flight; how "shake-and-bake" processing can profitably mine helium from the Moon; what we can do to defend life on Earth against a real-life Armageddon asteroid; and how a magnetic sail might speed up and slow down a starship.

*The Extreme Future: Top Trends That Will Reshape the World for the Next 5, 10, and 20 Years*
by James Canton. 2006. 384 pages.
Canton's background in future-planning consultancy began when he studied under Alvin Toffler in the 1970s—and it shows in this big-picture take on the world of tomorrow. Taken individually, none of the trends Canton believes will shape the upcoming decades are surprising: major crises brought on by energy shortages and climate change; economic transformation wrought by globalization; and the "war on terror" has barely started. But he recognizes the future is created by a "convergence" in which these developments interact.

*The Future Factor: Forces Transforming Human Destiny* by Michael Zey. 2004. 289 pages.
*The Future Factor* offers an inspiring, optimistic vision of the human future. Sociologist Dr. Michael G. Zey shows how breathtaking innovations in fields such as biotechnology, computing, robotics, medicine, energy development, and space technology are catapulting global society into a new era of unlimited abundance and prosperity. Soon, the average life span will be doubled, people will travel around the globe at hypersonic speeds, and robots and other "smart machines" will increase productivity in the workplace and enhance the quality of our lives. In *The Future Factor*, Zey provides the sophisticated cutting-edge knowledge companies need to achieve competitive advantage and individuals require to make career and life choices. Zey paints a "big picture" of powerful new forces, biogenesis, cybergenesis, species coalescence, and dominionization that are subtly impacting society and the global economy, and changing forever the way we live.

*Futuring: The Exploration of the Future* by Edward Cornish. 2004. 313 pages.
Since the future is hurtling toward us at breakneck speed, foresight is the great need of our times. We must think ahead if we are to cope with the hurricane-force changes now bashing at every aspect of our lives. This acceleration of change brings enormous opportunities as well as great dangers. Futuring is the art and science of exploring the future. It offers methods and techniques that can help you understand trends, identify opportunities and avoid dangers. Futuring can help you understand possible future developments, make better decisions, develop worthwhile goals, and find the means to achieve them. Futuring is a powerful way to help you and your organization to create a better future. Futuring will open your eyes to the world of the future and how you can prepare for the opportunities and risks ahead.

*Imagine: What America Could Be in the 21st Century*
by Marianne Williamson, Anne Lamott, Joseph Sohm, Thom Hartman, eds. 2001. 432 pages.
The 39 contributors to this inspirational essay collection edited by bestselling author Williamson represent expertise across a spectrum of disciplines, including business, medicine, education and law. Although their approaches differ, these leaders all share a vision of an America 50 years from now that is more environmentally aware, spiritual and humane than the America of today because they view the small, hard-to-see changes taking place already as the harbingers of greater change to come.

*Islands in the Sky: Bold New Ideas for Colonizing Space* by Stanley Schmidt, Robert Zubrin, eds. 1996. 266 pages.
Take off on a thrilling journey of space exploration and speculation—to realms where science fiction becomes science fact— as leading writers, researchers, and astronautic engineers describe a not-too-distant future of interstellar travel and colonization. From cable cars that ride "skyhooks" into space to rockets that can refuel out of Martian air, from "terraforming" planets (a process that makes them habitable) to faster-than-light propulsion systems, *Islands in the Sky* offers an astonishing collection of challenging—and plausible—ideas and proposals from the pages of *Analog* magazine.

*The Meaning of the 21st Century* by James Martin. 2006. 448 pages.
A freewheeling, sometimes scatterbrained romp through the technological challenges, dangers and opportunities facing the human race in the new century, the newest book by information age guru Martin is in equal measures exhilarating, thought provoking and just plain crazy in its zeal for emerging technologies. Martin, known for his influential *The Wired Society* (1978), believes that nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering and other advances could not only moderate but eventually reverse global warming while giving us superhuman strength, superior intelligence and the possibility of living to 1,000 or beyond.

*The New Atlas of Planet Management* by Norman Myers, Jennifer Kent, eds. 2005. 304 pages. Heavily Illustrated.
*The New Atlas of Planet Management* was regarded as the most groundbreaking survey of the state of our planet when it was first published in 1984. After over twenty years in print, it has become the bible of the environmental movement and the definitive guide to a planet in critical transition. Regularly featured among the top ten books on the environment, the *Atlas* has been read by millions of people and translated into more than a dozen languages. This enlarged edition brings the classic reference up-to-date. Thoroughly revised with the latest figures and analysis, fresh full-color and easy-to-read graphics, an expanded format, and a wealth of current environmental and political topics that have arisen during the previous two decades, *The New Atlas of Planet Management* will equip a further generation of readers with information to face the challenges of the new millennium.

*The Next Fifty Years: Science in the First Half of the Twenty-first Century* by John Brockman. 2002. 320 pages.
Agent Brockman has collected 25 of his writers to discuss the future of science in their respective fields of study. Several of these writers surpass ordinary trend spotting to entertain some rather pulse-quickening ideas completely beyond the kin of the so-called dominant paradigm. And some are of a magnitude to radically advance the nature of humans' interaction with each other, the planet and beyond. The neurologist Robert Sapolsky, for example, posits that sadness will take its place alongside AIDS and Alzheimer's as the most notorious medical disasters of the next half-century. Brockman (*The Third Culture*; *The Greatest Inventions of the Past 2,000 Years*, etc.) divides his collection into two parts: the future in theory and the future in practice. Theoretical topics include cosmology, what it means to be alive, the nature of consciousness and the possibility of extraterrestrial intelligence. Mars exploration, DNA sequencing, neuroscience, child rearing and the like are addressed in the practical half.

*Preview 2001+: Popular Culture Studies in the Future*
by Ray B. Browne, Marshall William Fishwick, eds. 1995. 220 pages.
Be prepared for the next 1,000 years. What will sports be like in the new millennium? What is the future of tourism and how will we spend our leisure time? Where will the Internet 2001 take us? How will religion interface with the future? *Preview 2001+* addresses these issues in a collection of essays from writers whose informed visions predict the very near future. Rather than doomsaying, the essays help plot society's course into the new world that awaits.

*Real Utopia: Participatory Society for the 21st Century* by Chris Spannos. 2008. 420 pages.
What if we had direct control over our daily lives? What if society's defining institutions-those encompassing economics, politics, kinship, culture, community, and ecology-were based not on competition, individual ownership, and coercion, but on self-management, equity, solidarity, and diversity? Real Utopia identifies and obliterates the barriers to an egalitarian, bottom-up society, while convincingly outlining how to build it. Instead of simply declaring "another world is possible," the writers in this collection engage with what that world would look like, how it would function, and how our commitment to just outcomes is related to the sort of institutions we maintain. Topics include: participatory economics, political vision, education, architecture, artists in a free society, environmentalism, work after capitalism, and poly-culturalism. The catchall phrase here is "participatory society"-one that is directly democratic and seeks institutional solutions to complex sociological and economic questions.

*The Shift Age* by David Houle. 2008. 244 pages.
The Shift Age is about humanity's new ere. As the Information Age gives way to the Shift Age, we are entering a time of transformation and change that offers both great risk and incredible opportunity. David Houle identifies and explains the dynamics and forces that already have reshaped and will continue to reshape our world for the next 20 years. He comments from the front lines of the Shift Age on issues and topics that affect our lives. We have entered the final, global stage of humanity's cultural, social and economic evolutionsary journey: The Shift Age.

*Tomorrow Now: Envisioning the Next 50 Years* by Bruce Sterling. 2003. 368 pages.
Taking a cue from one of William Shakespeare's greatest soliloquies, Sterling devotes one chapter to each of the seven stages of humanity: birth, school, love, war, politics, business, and old age. As our children progress through Sterling's Shakespearean life cycle, they will encounter new products; new weapons; new crimes; new moral conundrums, such as cloning and genetic alteration; and new political movements, which will augur the way wars of the future will be fought. Here are some of the author's predictions: Human clone babies will grow into the bitterest and surliest adolescents ever; Microbes will be more important than the family farm; Consumer items will look more and more like cuddly, squeezable pets; Tomorrow's kids will learn more from randomly clicking the Internet than they ever will from their textbooks.