**Gifted & Talented Seminar II**

**Course Syllabus**

**Tracey Palmer**

**Course Description**

This course is intended to introduce students to Futures Studies. Futures study is the forward-looking equivalent to history. Futures draws on our history to pose questions about where we would like to go and what we wish to achieve. Futures study reveals alternatives, and these give rise to choices. Depending upon values, priorities, commitments, such choices lead in turn to processes of decision-making.

**Course Objectives**  
By completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Exercise foundational knowledge about the field of Futures Studies
2. Utilize and apply various Futures Studies methodologies
3. Craft alternative and preferred social and political futures scenarios
4. Critically examine trends and visions for better futures
5. Express ideas and arguments clearly and effectively in written, oral and multi-sensory forms.

**Materials**

Whaley, Charles E. *Enhancing Thinking & Creativity With Futures Studies.* Toronto:

Royal Fireworks Press, 1995. Print

Slaughter, Richard. A. *Futures Tools and Techniques.* Nap. 1995. Print

Unit 1 – Overview and Introduction to GT\*

* FFA Project – includes visuals, presentations and research
* Tools of the Futurist – change drivers, trend analysis, trend extrapolation, characteristics of foresight, scenario writing
* Futures Rat Pack

\* Introduction to GT depends upon the number of students beginning GT their sophomore year.

Unit 2 - City Visions

* Overview of Urban Growth and Urban Planning
* Group City Model Design
* Use of Data & Research to Support Scenario

Unit 3 – Futures Symposium

* Independent Research on Futures Topics for Community Showcase Event

Unit 4 – Proposal Development – How Will You Shape Your Future Community?

* Action Plan Development
* Research on Community Issues

**Assignments:**

Annotated Bibliographies – students will conduct research using assigned sources and complete a 25-source bibliography per unit.

Readings – weekly readings with various activities to complete

Individual & Group Presentations – students will present in groups for Cities project and individually at Futures Symposium.

Action Plan and Proposals

Core Paper on Research Question

Multi-Sensory Projects per Unit