



An Invitation: Join us in our MIT online Course on *Shaping the Future of Work*

by Thomas Kochan and 15.662x Course Team

This Spring, from March 20 to May 11, we will offer our free eight-week online MITx course, [15.662x: *Shaping the Future of Work*](#), for the fourth time since 2015. **The goal of this course is to explore and develop plans of action for improving the job and career opportunities for today and tomorrow's workforce.** It will also help students understand and better address the deep divisions and inequalities in societies that threaten the future of our economies and democracies.

The course will allow for individuals from all across the globe to create a better future by building a stronger network of businesses, employees, labor organizations, and their communities. We expect over 60% participants of the course to be coming from countries outside of the US, which grants you the perfect opportunity to gain an international perspective on the changes in employment. You will be able to discuss, share and collaborate with fellow workers on the similarities and differences of the growing tide of innovations, advancing digital technologies, and organizational transformations occurring in your respective countries. We will be working closely with ADAPT in creating international content, but we would like you to take part in the course and contribute your own expertise to the conversation.

We use the metaphor of “*Building a New Social Contract*” to organize the task we face and the options we might consider, while shaping the future trajectory of employment. Together we will learn how business, education, labor, government, and the workforce can work together to produce more good jobs and careers, thriving businesses and economies and in doing so help to close the deep divisions and address the frustrations that are all too apparent in our society. A central theme in this course is that various stakeholders, such as Business Leaders, Human Resource Professionals, Labor Leaders, Government Policy Makers, and Educators need to *work together* to make sure we build strong, successful and innovative businesses that also provide good jobs and careers. So some of the modules developed for the course are designed to speak directly to these different stakeholders to provide them with actionable steps they and their peers can take to achieve these objectives.

A key feature of the course will be an exercise, spread over weeks 3 to 8, for participants to explore and choose among options for constructing a new multi-stakeholder Social Contract governing work. It is called the *New Social Contract Exercise*. You will complete Phase 1 of the exercise four times. After viewing the videos and reading the material assigned for each of these weeks, you will complete a brief survey that asks you to make specific contract proposals for one of the key stakeholder groups (business, labor, education, and government). Then you will complete Phase 2 of the exercise in week 7 by completing another survey that asks you to evaluate the quality of the social contract proposals generated by the class in the prior weeks. The overall results of the exercise will be reviewed during the final wrap-up session in week 8.

We would like to invite students and colleagues from ADAPT and its global network to take part in the class. In order to get a better sense of the course layout, you can watch the introduction piece at <https://www.edx.org/course/shaping-the-future-of-work> and register to participate in the course when it starts on March 20. You can also find the syllabus in the attachment. We would love to have you on board and work with us to create a promising future for workers all around the world!

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