

Presentation pattern: May to October

Module description

This module will enable you to take strategic action in complex interconnected situations, where contrasting understandings, motivations and interests can often lead to conflict. By integrating tools from three traditions of systems thinking into your practice, you will develop capability towards making choices with ethical awareness and political sensitivity. You will nurture capacity to integrate improved understanding of inter-relationships, and enhanced engagement with multiple perspectives for advising on strategic planning. The module is designed to enrich your understanding of systems thinking whilst making practical progress on situations from your existing professional work and/or situations of more general interest to you.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the [generic person specification](#) for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- Knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts and main theoretical strands of systems thinking traditions
- Practical and theoretical understanding of one or more of the following: System Dynamics, Viable System Model, Soft Systems Methodology, Strategic Options Development Analysis/Cognitive Mapping, and Critical Systems Heuristics
- Understanding of challenges in developing effective systems practice capability
- Ability to support development of adult cognitive and epistemological awareness associated with systems thinking
- Ability to support others in dealing with uncertainty and ambiguity
- Ability to teach in a team environment

It would be an advantage to have:

- Experience of teaching the following: System Dynamics, Viable System Model, Soft Systems Methodology, Strategic Options Development Analysis/Cognitive Mapping, and Critical Systems Heuristics
- Experience of applying systems thinking approaches in a variety of complex situations.
- Knowledge and understanding of cognitive and psychological dimensions of making strategy
- Experience of developing systems thinking in practice capability in the workplace, or professional or community settings
- Experience of using exploratory, inquiry and community-based approaches to learning
- Experience of postgraduate teaching within higher education

Additional information

This module is a compulsory module in the Postgraduate Certificate in Systems Thinking in Practice. With appropriate further study this could lead to a Diploma or Masters in Systems

Thinking in Practice. Tutors on this module will be expected to use a synchronous collaboration tool for online tutorials.

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	30
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	3
Method of submission for assignments:	1a
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	15
Salary band:	4
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	6