



The International Society for Systems Sciences

is pleased to announce its annual ISSS Graduate Course:

Systems Thinking in Practice in Research

June 25 -July 2, 2019, in Corvallis, Oregon

This ISSS Graduate Course includes three days of dedicated workshops introducing various systems approaches, methods, and research traditions plus five days of participation in the 2019 ISSS Conference in Oregon. Three graduate level units are available for an additional fee.



*Picture from 2016 ISSS graduate programs

In this course, designed by renowned systems practitioners/researchers Drs. Ray Ison, Chris Blackmore and Sri Sriskandarajah, students will learn skills to work strategically to negotiate boundaries for research in their own areas of concern. Previous students' research topics include issues related to sustainability, development, poverty, hunger, and the environment; multi-sector transformative change; and creative systemic psychotherapeutic practices to name just a few. The purpose of this course is to help you, the graduate student, develop your skills in contextualizing your research; to make connections among issues using systems, cybernetic and complexity thinking; and to improve your ability to work both strategically and purposefully. The course is also designed to help you build on what other researchers have done. The conference will also become more meaningful to you as your engagement with it will be through a group-based systemic co-inquiry. Students will increase their ability to think systemically and engage in systemic research activities without becoming overwhelmed by potential complexity and uncertainty.



Through participation in this course you can expect to:

- gain an overview of the intellectual traditions of cybernetics and systems thinking
- reflect on strengths and weaknesses of different systems approaches and methodologies in relation to your own research
- develop appreciation for multiple perspectives on contemporary issues
- work across multiple disciplines, build networks, and establish new relationships supportive of your research and scholarship
- strengthen your research by engaging cybersystemic theories and methodologies
- critically review potential contributions of your research



*Pictures from 2018 ISSS graduate programs

Students accepted into the program are expected to read provided literature and complete a brief writing assignment before arriving in Oregon. The majority of coursework will be completed in Oregon, drawing on experiential learning techniques and the expertise of academics who have been designing learning experiences for graduate students for many years. The course will be grounded in a research project of your choice, preferably based on your graduate work. You will be guided through exploring your own research context. You will be supported throughout the program by facilitators and other specialists who will provide lessons, resources, and mentorship.

Additionally, you will be aided in planning your attendance at the most relevant sessions for you at the ISSS conference. Throughout the week, you and the other students will work in groups to complete the assignment that has been agreed upon, linking it to cybersystemic thinking and practice.

Students will give a short group presentation for the ISSS conference attendees during the last day of the conference. The course will be completed after submitting a post-conference reflection paper.



Application Process

To register for **Systems Thinking and Practice in Research**, go to http://www.iss.org/world/ISSS2019_Corvallis_Registration and click on “Register.” From the pull-down menu, select “ISSS Graduate Student Program.”

After completing registration, please email a photo and brief biography of yourself, as well as a short statement as to why you wish to take this course, including its benefit to your research or studies. Email this information to enquiryiss@gmail.com. This statement will be forwarded to the course instructors, who will then be in contact with you about preparation for the course before the conference.

Fees

The student fee to participate in the ISSS graduate course and ISSS conference is \$495 before May 17 and \$595 after. Travel, accommodation and living expenses are not included. To receive 3 graduate units, there is an additional fee of \$540.

Course Team

Coordinators

Professor Ray Ison, Professor of Systems, The Open University Applied Systems Thinking in Practice Group, UK (former President of the ISSS; current President of IFSR – International Federation for Systems Research)

Dr. Chris Blackmore, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Systems, The Open University Applied Systems Thinking in Practice Group, UK.

Professor Sri Sriskandarajah, Professor Emeritus, Environmental Communication, Swedish Agricultural University

Instructors

Dr. Jocelyn Chapman, California Institute of Integral Studies

Dr. Karen McClendon, California Northstate University

