OpenLearn

The Open University

Statement of participation

Michael Frank

has completed the free course including any mandatory tests for:

Understanding the environment: A systems approach

This 1-hour free course was to stimulate consideration of a more holistic and ecological world view than society might currently hold.

Issue date: 19 August 2018

www.open.edu/openlearn

COURSE CODE: T214_1

OpenLearn

Understanding the environment: A systems approach

http://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/the-environment/environmental-studies/understanding-the-environment-systems-approach/content-section-0

Course summary

There is increasing recognition that the reductionist mindset that is currently dominating society, rooted in unlimited economic growth unperceptive to its social and environmental impact, cannot resolve the converging environmental, social and economic crises we now face. Understanding the environment: A systems approach, is a free course whose primary aim is to encourage the shift away from reductionist and human centred thinking towards a holistic and ecological worldview. It promotes the shift in perception towards socio-economic systems as dependent upon the finite resources and finite wastes sinks of planet Earth.

Learning outcomes

By completing this course, the learner should be able to:

- implement an action learning framework for exploring complex situations
- recognise that the way we engage with the world is through partial models of reality, and that these models are limited by different cognitive styles and 'thinking traps'
- understand the need to collaboratively incorporate a blend of cognitive styles and multiple intelligences as the basis for effective systems practice and thinking
- appreciate how different modes of communication (verbal, visual and mathematical) affect the way we represent our mental models
- develop verbal, visual and mathematical models that explore both social and natural impacts, and reflect on the use of such models to inform thoughts and actions.

OpenLearn

The Open University

Understanding the environment: A systems approach

Completed study

The learner has completed the following:

Section 1

This course's fundamental concepts: feedback, models and learning

Section 2

How to study this course

Section 3

Conclusion