SYS 590 Service Learning and Systems Thinking  

Course Description

SYS 590 Service Learning and Systems Thinking is a 1-credit independent study course that has a limited enrollment of 6 students who are also enrolled in SYS 530 Practical Systems Thinking as a co-requisite. SYS 530 is offered to on-campus graduate students, on-campus upper division undergraduates, and online graduate students. It has two back-to-back projects during last two-thirds of the semester that involve student teams working with community partners.

The community partner for the student team enrolled in SYS 590 is HomesteadCS, a non-profit HUD-certified Housing Counseling Agency in Lafayette, Indiana, offering Education and Consulting Assistance to all homeowners and potential homeowners regardless of income. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The HomesteadCS organizational goal is to keep people in their homes, and one of the tools they use is financial education. Many students are coming out of college with large debt, mostly student loans and little idea how to manage their finances. HomesteadCS aspires to have well-organized education classes for Purdue students, have enough instructors to teach the classes, and have measurable outcomes.

Students enrolled in SYS 590 will gain experience in applying systems methods to understand how a small non-profit community-service organization and a large non-profit university can join forces to provide a valuable educational service to the university’s students. They will be able to use their expertise to make a community difference, enhance their communication skills, gain an understanding of adult education, and gain an understanding of the student population at Purdue.

Course Registration Information

SYS 59000 IND CRN 20374
On-campus SYS 53000 lecture CRN 13876 (co-requisite)

Instructor

Dr. C. Robert Kenley, Associate Professor of Engineering Practice, School of Industrial Engineering
Office: GRIS 370  Phone: +1 765 494 5160  E-mail: kenley@purdue.edu
Web: http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~ckenley/