Conventional and Systems Thinking Comparisons

	Traditional Thinking	Systems Thinking
Descriptors	mechanistic	system
	parts	whole
	objects	relationships
	independent	interdependent
	analysis	synthesis
	linear	nonlinear
	reductionist	holistic
	sequential	contextual
	chronological, sequential	circular
	stages	spirals, waves
	simplicity	complexity
	static	dynamic
	events	structures
	specific	general
	segregation	integration
	predictable, certainty	uncertainty
	exclusive	inclusive
	monocausal	multiplicity
	classify, divisions	connections
	debate	dialogue
	autonomous	linked
	factual	relativity
	concrete	abstract
	rows	circles
Values	competition	cooperation
	domination, hierarchical	partnership
	quantity	quality
	authority	facilitator
	rational	intuitive
	individualistic	collective
	isolation	community
	expansion	conservation
	passive	active
	tests	inquiry
	unconnected	experience
	orderly	spontaneous
	conformity	diversity
	exploit	sustainable
	compartmentalized	flow

Dr. Denise R. Ames Center for Global Awareness www.global-awareness.org