

RegenesiS Institute for Regenerative Practice

System Evolution Mastery Course

2023-24 Syllabus

RegenesiS Institute Mastery Courses are designed to support continuing growth and development of the effect and effectiveness we can have as regenerative practitioners. Each of them builds on the experience of The Regenerative Practitioner Series, bringing new perspectives to frameworks and concepts from TRP, opening up insights about their relevance and utility while deepening understanding of how they work. Like TRP, these courses emphasize application, weaving regenerative thinking into the fabric of our work and personal lives, drawing on the more spacious schedule to create opportunities for real-time engagement between sessions.

The System Evolution course introduces the theory and technology behind a regenerative approach to systemic change. It is centered around the regenerative premise that developing the capacity for conscious evolution of social living systems is a powerful nodal intervention point for evolving the current role of humans and human societies from one of battling entropy to one of enabling the co-evolution of life.

It involves eight zoom sessions (spaced roughly 2 weeks apart) that guide exploration through application of this theory and framework technology toward deepening understanding and mastery. In addition to attending sessions, participants will be supported in organizing and engaging in small study groups to help ground and peer-resource each other in the application of these concepts and frameworks to real systems that they are currently involved in stewarding.

Work scope: Eight 2 hour zoom sessions, totaling 16 hours of faculty led session time. Participants will also engage in follow-up readings/assignments/study group meetings for each session, for an additional study time of 2 hours per session or more. 2 hours of faculty resourcing time is offered to each study group.

Overview of Course Sessions:

Session One: A regenerative perspective on systems and systems change.

Regenerative development works with living systems, a subset of open systems. This session contrasts conventional understanding of and approaches to systems change and the regenerative approach of system evolution, and introduces the System Evolution framework as the overall structure for the work of the course.

Session Two: Developing an evolutionary systems lens.

A critical factor determining the success of system evolution work is our perception of the system on which we're working. Conventional systems thinking reflects its engineering and physical science roots. This session introduces a framework, drawn from living systems and quantum sciences, as a way of assessing living systems that enables understanding and working with these systems as living wholes, an essential condition for working on evolution.

Session Three: Working with evolutionary potential, part I.

A premise of regenerative development is that to see something as a living system we must get some sense of what's at the core of it. This session explores how revealing a system's essence patterns can awaken its drive to manifest its potential, and provides a counterpoint to conventional analytic approaches.

Session Four: Working with evolutionary potential, part II.

We cannot discover a system's evolutionary potential in isolation from the nested ecosystems within which it exists and works. This session explores how directing essence potential toward a superordinate purpose that has field-shifting potential can reveal evolutionary potential and fuel the motivation for evolutionary development across the system and beyond.

Session Five: Imaging actualization—change from the inside out.

System evolution works to grow something from the nucleus or core out versus trying to change everything from the outside in. This session extends our thinking along the motivation line to explore the new orders of value that a superordinate purpose can generate, and how to identify the right opportunity for actualizing them—a nodal intervention with system leveraging potential.

Session Six: Indirect work through systemic nodes.

This session re-views the progression of the work of the previous three sessions along the motivation line, imaging it as a developmental process and the first phase of what working indirectly requires. This provides the context for moving to the Instrument point to explore how regenerative “centers” enable working on system evolution indirectly, i.e. developmentally, at scale, how they operate in social as well as biological systems, and how to identify and help develop them as instruments for the regeneration of emergent energy patterns within the system.

Session Seven: Developing regenerative thinking processes.

Cause-effect thinking, single-effect thinking and most conventional models for systems thinking are not sufficient for the work of systems actualization/evolution. In this session, we explore what is required as a continuing source of direction to develop, extend and sustain over time the consciousness and nature of thinking processes that system evolution requires to address the challenge of moving from vision to action.

Session Eight: Tying it all together.

This session steps back from the individual elements of the framework to see it operating as an overall process, reflecting on it working as a whole and introducing an ordering and organizing infrastructure for aligning evolutionary thinking and planning across the system through time.