Introduction to Regenerative Economics

Reimagine our economy as a source of equitable wellbeing throughout the world while preserving ecological harmony

January - March 2024 Syllabus
About

"I would bet that if we make this transformation the way I hope we do, the leading institutions of society won't look anything like they do today." — John Fullerton

The Capital Institute is offering a fifth edition of its online course, Introduction to Regenerative Economics: New Ways of Seeing, Thinking, Being, and Leading for the 21st Century starting on January 31, 2024, hosted by John Fullerton and featuring 30+ thought leaders from around the globe. This course aims to reimagine economics based on a living systems framework, allowing us to participate in the redesign of our economy so that long-term human dignity, social equity, and planetary health can become a reality throughout the world.

For over a decade, the Capital Institute has been working on a new holistic approach for reimagining economics and finance that is grounded in reality, arising from the universal laws, patterns, and principles that guide all living systems. The regenerative economy we foresee is a powerful one, capable of unleashing presently unseen potential and self-sustaining prosperity for all. This potential derives from remembering the intrinsic wisdom that resides in us all that can be cultivated to create regenerative enterprises, institutions, and policy frameworks that work collectively in service to a larger whole.
This course is based on 8 Principles of Regenerative Vitality and how these principles can be applied to build a vibrant and self-sustaining economy that is in service to all life. Grounded in the science of living systems as well as practical real-life examples, the syllabus for this 8-week course includes key topics as outlined in following pages.
Welcome Session | January 31, 2024

Module 1: What is Regenerative Economics?
Week of February 5, 2023

- Explore how the “fatal error” in current economic thinking has resulted in significant, even if unintentional, long-term harm.
- Examine how prior tweaks to neoclassical economics fail to recognize the reality of how life actually works and why a fundamental re-think is essential.
- Define the principles of Regenerative Economics and discover how they offer not only a pathway out of the current interconnected crises cascading all around us, but also the promise of presently unimaginable human prosperity and the flourishing of life on earth.

Module 2: Moving from Reductionism to Holism: The Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality Part 1
Week of February 12, 2024

- Identify the uses and limitations of reductionist thinking.
- Define holism within the context of living systems principles.
- Compare and contrast the science of energy flow networks and process ecology with current economic practices.
Module 3: Thinking in Systems: The Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality Part 2
Week of February 19, 2024

- Deepen our understanding of the Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality and analyze how together they can unlock hidden potential to deliver more equitable abundance for all.
- Discover how a living systems approach opens up fresh perspectives on seemingly “wicked problems.”
- Learn to apply the Eight Principles to real world contexts.

Module 4: Firms for the Future
Week of February 26, 2024

- Define the characteristics of regenerative organizations and how they align with the Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality.
- Explore how regenerative companies and organizations are designed to generate true wealth for all stakeholders, without undermining the health of the planet, our only home.
- Learn from leading company executives how they are working to apply regenerative principles to their organizations.

What Course Alumni Are Saying

“It honestly blew our doors off. I can’t thank you enough for the inclusion. I will never see the world, or my role in it, the same way again. The course mechanics, the content, the quality of speakers... Job well done Capital Institute Team!”

—Ted Manning, Senior Executive at Patagonia
Module 5: Macro / Meta Economics
Week of March 4, 2024

- Understand the geophysical planetary boundaries of our economic activities, and identify measures of wellbeing that go beyond GDP.
- Reimagine money in the context of Regenerative Economics.
- Understand fiscal and monetary policies through the regenerative paradigm.
- Explore the critical missing institution of a Regenerative Economy: The Commons Sector, consisting of all co-inherited wealth.
- Understand how the essential self-governance feature of all living systems can be achieved through the integration of the Commons Sector into the macro/meta economy.

Module 6: Finance in Service to Life
Week of March 11, 2024

- Examine modern finance ideology and practices through a regenerative lens.
- Explore the confusion surrounding ESG and “sustainable investment” practices through the Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality.
- Understand how banking and finance can be aligned with the Eight Principles to mitigate the present extraction while enabling true wealth and prosperity.

What Course Alumni Are Saying

This course was transformative! Countless wonderful insights and connections that I will carry with me for a lifetime. I had the opportunity to get to know people from more than 10 countries, such a blessing.

—Pamela Piazentin, Cohort 4 Alumni
Module 7: Learning to Lead Together  
Week of March 18, 2023

- Define regenerative leadership and how it differs from hero leadership.
- Analyze how regenerative leadership can help organizations shift from a mechanistic way of operating to a living-systems way of leading.
- Hear from world-class practitioners learning to lead highly conscious, future fit organizations.

Module 8: A Roadmap to Transformation: Timeless Wisdom of Regenerative Vitality  
Week of March 25, 2024

- Understand how the fundamentals of Regenerative Economics parallel the time-tested wisdom traditions reflected throughout Indigenous, Eastern, South Asian, and Western traditions.
- See that our modern scientific understanding of how life works serves to validate these ancient traditions and alternative forms of knowing, yet at the same time conflicts with modern economics and finance, both theory and practice.
- Explore the transformative, and even alchemical potential of regenerative wisdom.
- Discover how our latest science and ancient wisdom traditions merge into a profound and breathtaking Unitive Narrative.
Course Design

LIVE LECTURES

2-hour sessions, Mondays at 11:00 am ET

For each module, course participants will have access to experience a live lecture and engage in live group dialogue. These lectures provide the core framework of the curriculum and are augmented by selected readings and other content. In addition to this material, we are creating a growing library to provide an unparalleled source of emergent regenerative theory and practical application in the real world.

Please note that the USA change their clocks halfway through this course and this could affect start time in different countries.

DISCOVERY DIALOGUES

1.5-hour sessions, 5 x Wednesdays at 11:00 am ET

Mindfulness Dialogue is a core learning tool of the course. We now have a library of over 20 “Discovery Dialogue” recordings with global thought leaders. Select recordings will be assigned as part of the core curriculum each week. In addition, there will be five live Discovery Dialogues during the Course. You will continue to have access to all the content after the course ends.
PRACTICE LABS
2-hour sessions, 3 x Wednesdays at 11:00 am ET

With the intention of supporting course participants in applying their learnings to their own work and life context, we offer three interactive and engaging workshops. Course participants will have the opportunity to work in small groups to workshop the Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality in real-life case studies and scenarios to deepen their learning and offer practical ways the frameworks and tools shared in the course can be applied.

COMMUNITY

Course alumni consistently remark on the strong, purposeful community we’ve built for exploring the profound paradigm shift at the core of the course. In many ways, the community is the curriculum. This community of 1000+ professionals, entrepreneurs, students, policymakers, and thought leaders from 53 countries where participants collaborate with a range of regenerative thinkers and change makers long after the course is completed to advance their personal and professional growth in key areas of interest.
It is this regenerative potential that holds the promise of exponential and unending prosperity for humankind and the living world in which we are embedded just as life expands in the face of entropy. Such is the promise of simply participating in — and contributing to as only humans uniquely can — the journey of evolution itself. But, and this is an important but, such promise is open to us if and only if we shed our arrogant ignorance and learn to live synergistically with these patterns and principles that describe living systems and just so happen to be aligned with the wisdom traditions that have stood the test of time.

Let us choose life as the basis of our economic system design.

Introduction to Regenerative Economics Cohort 5
Begins on January 31, 2024

Enroll at capitalinstitute.org/course-introduction-regenerative-economics

—Irina Lahtadire, Scholarship Recipient