

Principles and Practices of Deep Transformation

Laying the groundwork for an ecological civilization

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Programme Overview

Type: e-Learning
Start Date: 11th April 2022
Length: 10 weeks
Study Time: 4 hours +/- week
Facilitation: With Facilitators
Level: Intermediate
Registrations: until 18 April 2022

Developed by:
gaia education

We need deep transformation

Our civilization is careening at an accelerating pace toward a precipice of climate breakdown, ecological destruction, and gaping inequality. Redirecting humanity's trajectory will require a fundamental transformation of society encompassing virtually every aspect of the human experience: our values, our goals and our collective behavior.

The depiction of humans as selfish individuals, the view of nature as a resource to be exploited, and the idea that technology alone can fix our biggest problems, are all profound misconceptions that have collectively led our civilization down a path to disaster.

We need to transform our core human identity, our relationships with others, and with the nonhuman world.

Once we shift our worldview, another world becomes possible

The only way we can truly change our trajectory is by approaching society's problems from the foundation of an alternative worldview—one that affirms life, rather than the accumulation of wealth above all else.

This worldview already exists: it is one of deep interconnectedness, which integrates the findings of modern systems thinking, evolutionary biology, and cognitive neuroscience with insights from Buddhism, Taoism, and Indigenous knowledge.

Ultimately, this worldview could serve as the basis for a fundamentally different type of society: an *ecological civilization*.

Learn the principles and practice of Deep Transformation

This course, based largely on the work of Jeremy Lent's recent book *The Web of Meaning*, but also drawing on many other diverse sources, lays out **principles and practices of deep transformation** for the individual, for community, and for society at large.

It offers participants a deep but accessible guided exploration of an alternative life-affirming worldview based on the intersection of modern science and the world's great wisdom traditions, along with an inspiring and practical vision of pathways that could lead to an ecological civilization.

Dive into your own experience of Deep Transformation

- Understand the flaws of our dominant worldview
- Explore an alternative, life-affirming worldview of deep interconnectedness
- Learn how modern science validates the great wisdom traditions of earlier cultures
- Discover the exciting and practical pathways that lead to a regenerative future: an *Ecological Civilization*

[Dive into deep transformation!](#)

"We need to transform our core human identity, our relationships with others, and with the nonhuman world."

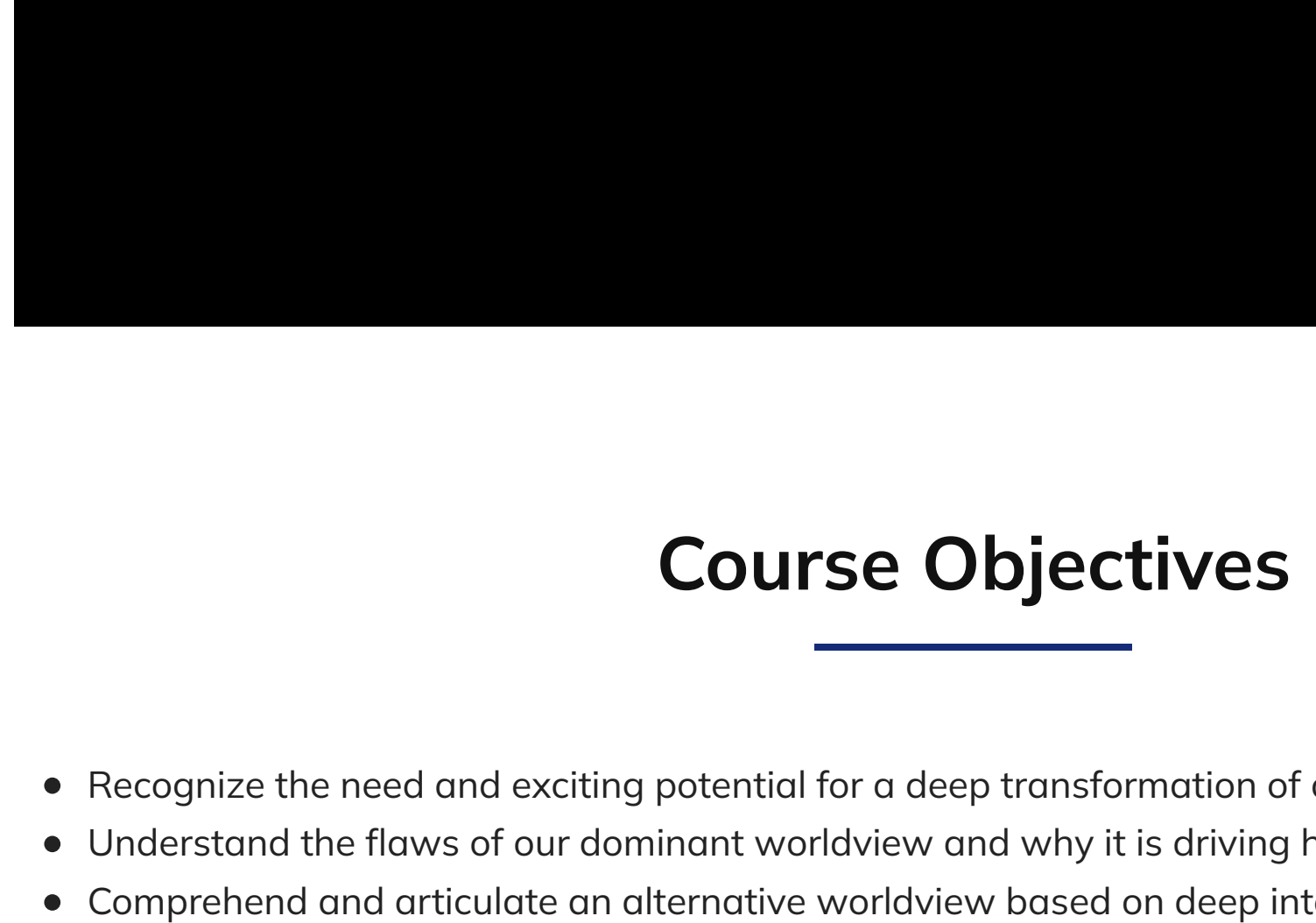


Course Instructor

The course will be offered by Jeremy Lent, author of *The Patterning Instinct* and *The Web of Meaning*

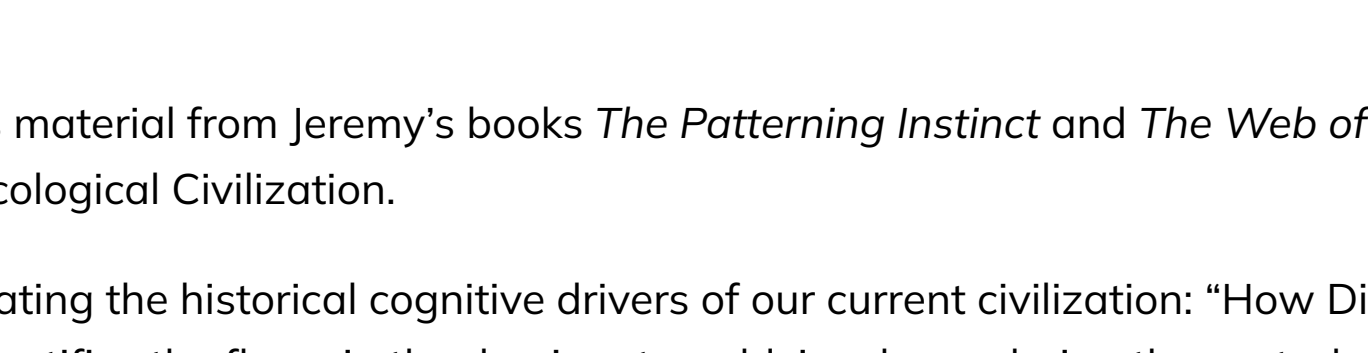
Jeremy Lent, described by *Guardian* journalist George Monbiot as "one of the greatest thinkers of our age," is an author and speaker whose work investigates the underlying causes of our civilization's existential crisis, and explores pathways toward a life-affirming future. His award-winning book, *The Patterning Instinct: A Cultural History of Humanity's Search for Meaning*, examines the way humans have made meaning from the cosmos from hunter-gatherer times to the present day. His recent book, *The Web of Meaning: Integrating Science and Traditional Wisdom to Find Our Place in the Universe*, offers a solid foundation for an integrative worldview that could lead humanity to a sustainable, flourishing future. He is founder of the nonprofit Liology Institute and writes topical articles exploring the deeper patterns of political and cultural developments at Patterns of Meaning.

Jeremy Lent's website: [Explore more about The Web of Meaning](#)



Course Objectives

- Recognize the need and exciting potential for a deep transformation of our civilization
- Understand the flaws of our dominant worldview and why it is driving humanity to a precipice
- Comprehend and articulate an alternative worldview based on deep interconnectedness
- Appreciate how modern scientific insights echo the ancient wisdom of Indigenous knowledge, Taoism, and Buddhism.
- Connect the dots between the different transformative and life-affirming movements blossoming around the world in economics, politics, technology, culture, spirituality, and science.
- Be able to visualize and describe an Ecological Civilization and identify the practical pathways that are leading to it.
- Feel inspired by the possibility of a life-affirming future for humanity on a regenerated Earth.
- Identify how your own lifepath and engagement can help amplify the global movement toward Deep Transformation and an Ecological Civilization



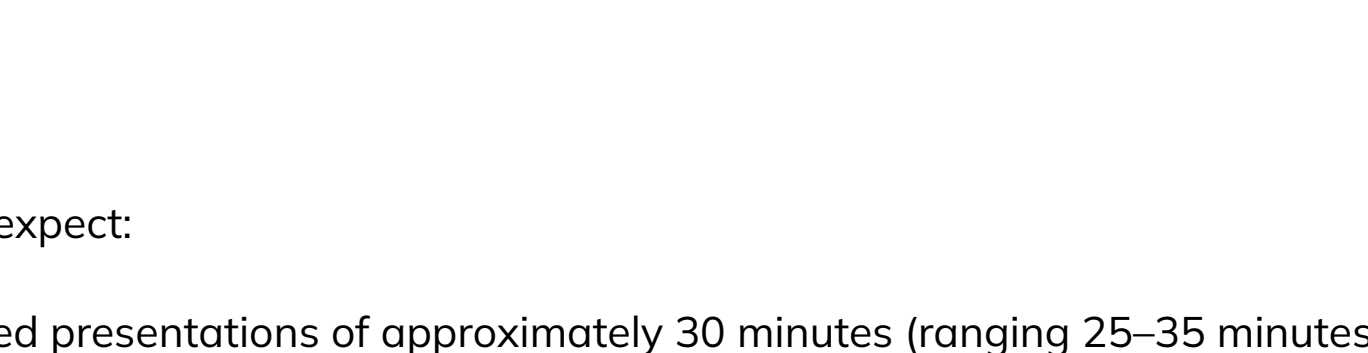
Course Content

The Course contains material from Jeremy's books *The Patterning Instinct* and *The Web of Meaning*, as well as his writings on an Ecological Civilization.

It begins by investigating the historical cognitive drivers of our current civilization: "How Did We Get Here?" The bulk of the course identifies the flaws in the dominant worldview by exploring the central existential questions everyone asks at some time in their lives—*Who Am I?, Where Am I?, What Am I?, How Should I Live?, Why Am I? and Where Are We Going?*—and exploring the possibilities provided by an alternative worldview of deep interrelatedness.

The final weeks of the course introduce participants to the exciting vision of an alternative life-affirming civilization—an *Ecological Civilization*—and identifies current practical pathways that are leading to it.

- Week 1: How Did We Get Here?**
 - Historical Patterns of Meaning
 - Reshaping Our Metaphors of Meaning
- Week 2: Who Am I?**
 - The Nameless Uncarved Wood
 - The Most Important Relationship In Your Life
- Week 3: Where Am I?**
 - The Patterns of the Universe
 - The Harmonic Dance of Life
- Week 4: What Am I?**
 - The Deep Purpose of Life
 - The Tao in My Own Nature
- Week 5: How Should I Live? (Part I)**
 - Flourishing As an Integrated Organism
 - Cultivating Integrated Values
- Week 6: How Should I Live? (Part II)**
 - Human/Nature
 - Fractal Flourishing
- Week 7: Why Am I?**
 - Everything Is Connected
 - From Self to Infinite Li: The Fractal Nature of Identity
- Week 8: Where Are We Going?**
 - Accelerating Toward a Precipice
 - The Vision of an Ecological Civilization
- Week 9: An Eco Civilization in Practice**
 - Economy, Wealth Distribution and Technology
 - Governance, Culture, and Community
- Week 10: Toward an Eco Civilization**
 - How Change Happens
 - Pathways Toward an Ecological Civilization



Course Structure

Each week you can expect:

- Two pre-recorded presentations of approximately 30 minutes (ranging 25–35 minutes)
- Assigned readings (including chapters from **The Web of Meaning** as well as other articles, excerpts, and occasional videos)
- Questions for reflection and prompts to share in the course community platform
- Discussion Groups to explore questions posed as the end of each presentation (students expected to attend one session per week. Discussion groups are offered at **4 PM and 2 AM UTC every Wednesday** to accommodate most time zones).
- Hourlong weekly live Q&A and discussion with Jeremy Lent at **8 PM UTC on Fridays**



Certificate of Completion

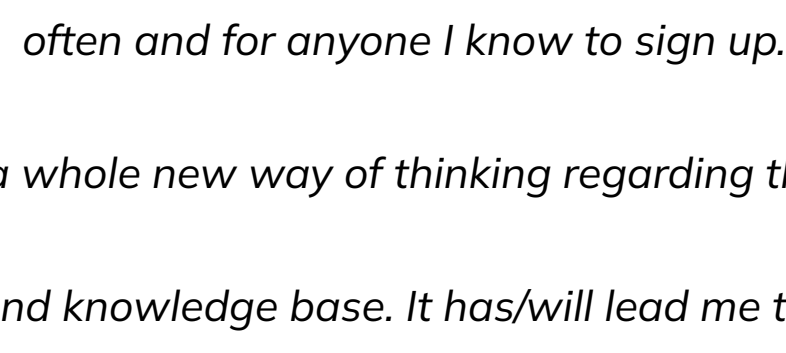
- The **Principles and Practices of Deep Transformation** runs for **10 weeks** (including audio and paper).
- Participants will receive a **30% discount code to buy the book** in audiobook, eBook or paperback formats (the book is not mandatory for this course). The discount is valid for all formats but shipping for paperback only available for the US and Canada.
- We suggest you dedicate a minimum of 4 hours a week to receive maximum benefit from this programme.
- **You can choose to pay in full or in instalments.**
- The participants have the option to choose one of the payments options **75GBP, 100GBP and 150GBP** according to your financial availability. A limited number of **full and partial scholarships** are available. We will be offering scholarships **until March 30** and notifying you of the results **by April 4**.
- For further information, please email: silvia.diblasio@gaiaeducation.org

Graduates of our programmes have gone on to contribute to sustainability projects, build communities, become social entrepreneurs, partake in permaculture projects and bio-dynamic farming, support transition movements and much more.

[Register Here](#)

Upon certification you will have the background and regeneration to take an active role in **Principles and Practices of Deep Transformation**, resilience and regeneration, both professionally and personally, working for small and large- scale community projects, eco-social enterprises or transition initiatives in civil society, the public sector or business.

To receive a Certificate of Completion students need to engage and participate in all activities during the 10 weeks period of the programme **Principles and Practices of Deep Transformation**. At the end of their participation students will have successfully completed the minimum required activities and will have access to an alumni platform with all the content of the course and access to some sharing and interaction tools with other participants.



Course Testimonials

Testimonials from similar courses given by Jeremy Lent in 2021:

- "This is a brilliant and motivating overview of the key issue of our time and I would encourage it to be repeated often and for anyone I know to sign up."
- "Opened the door to a whole new way of thinking regarding the future of civilization."
- "Transformative in my worldview and knowledge base. It has/will lead me to further learn about so many topics. I am heartened by Jeremy and the group's knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment."
- "It gave me hope and a semblance of a roadmap."
- "Sometimes real transformative change is hard to see... but this program helped me to see change in a new light."
- "It clarified concepts for me and gave me a direction and incentive to take my next action steps. I felt a connection to all the participants that opened my heart."
- "It has made me appreciate even more the more nature-based worldviews of Indigenous cultures around the world and inspires me to connect with and work with others to help create an Ecological Civilization."
- "It has confirmed me being on the right path. I feel supported, energised and connected to make my contribution in the web together with others."

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