

“Maximizing Citizen Participation and Accelerating Solution Activity  
in a Time of Unprecedented Challenges”

(Syllabus; 8 week course)

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[www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org)

**[Special Note:** This 6 page **draft for comment** (12/11/21) is offered as an example of creating local specific curriculum which can catalyze Cultural Transformation pathways for achieving Zero Carbon and Sustainable BioDiversity ASAP. The CPCS Initiative believes that this kind of curriculum needs to be developed for all local educational settings (including Neighborhood Learning Centers)]

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I. Catalogue Entry

CLTRANS 240

“Maximizing Citizen Participation and Accelerating Solution Activity  
in a Time of Unprecedented Challenges”

Course Duration: 8 weeks (Open Courseware/No Copyright)

\_\_\_\_\_ Community College (online)

(lead facilitator--\_\_\_\_\_)

Online Meetings and Discussion Forum Support by

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative

[www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org)

## II. Course Details

Class size limited: 10-20 participants

Cost: \$50

Where: Local Online Education Platforms; Community Colleges (Higher Education);  
or online with The CPCS Initiative

Participants receive: Two 30 minute meetings per week with local facilitator, Online Discussion Forum--  
facilitated discussion on assignments, and resources described below (ongoing)

Learn Skills Sets in the Following Areas: Risk Assessment; Positive Tipping Points and Positive Tipping Point  
Organizations and Institutions; Growing Wisdom and Compassion (from “seeds” inherent in all religious,  
spiritual, and moral traditions); Living Lightly Models (and evidence which supports Living Lightly);  
Collaborative Problem Solving and Peacebuilding; Regenerating and Maintaining Sustainable BioDiversity

→ Course Goal: Participants (however experienced or inexperienced)  
can and should develop noticeably and significantly towards becoming  
a catalyst (or a better catalyst) for Cultural Transformation by taking this course.

Evaluation: Based on Developing Capacity for Working as a Catalyst in Cultural Transformation

Key Outcome: At the end of the 8 weeks, participants will have written a Course Syllabus (similar to this  
one) for a 8 week course in a Community College or other local educational platform, focusing on a field (or  
fields) of activity which they are most interested in catalyzing

## III. Course Overview

### A. Current Critical Challenges Assessment (December, 2021)

1) We are at one of the most critical crossroads in the history of life on Planet Earth.

Climate Emergency; Extinction Emergency; cultures of violence, greed, corruption, and overindulgence;  
fragmented human morality; media illiteracy; information overload; water quality and sanitation  
challenges; migration and displacement; race and gender issues; floods and chemical sites; meat and dairy  
carbon emissions; cement carbon emissions; thawing permafrost; multiple negative tipping point threats;  
increasingly severe natural disasters (floods, fires, droughts); etc.--and a pandemic we cannot control.

2) There are many pathways by which Zero Carbon and Sustainable BioDiversity can be realized--and they  
need to include reining in energy intensive lifestyles, as a way to minimize the renewable based electric  
power needed to get to Zero Carbon—and minimize damage to Planetary ecosystems.

3) We need collaborative problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before.

4) We need to recalibrate our moral compasses.

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative has accumulated much evidence supporting #1, many examples of #2 and #3, and many suggestions for how to do #4.

B. Supporting Resources (other resources can also be used as support for completing assignments)

1) [“Global Warming Awareness, Climate Change Awareness, and Climate Emergency Action” A Survey: 1961-2020](#) (240 highlights from reports, websites, articles, books, etc.) (316 pages; November, 2020) [“Quick Reference to 10 Key Graphs and Charts”](#) (6p) (last six pages from “Survey” in #2 above)

2) [“Unprecedented Challenges Ahead--July 2020”](#) (2 pages)

3) [“Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?”](#) (147 pages; April, 2021)

Section B = many challenges, unprecedented cultural transformation needed for healthy equilibrium

Section C = keys to multi-solving; downsizing overuse of energy and re-distributing wealth;

and making more practical use of wisdom and compassion ([Table of Contents](#) =Executive Summary)

4) [“Sample List of 231 positive tipping point organizations and institutions”](#) (12 pages; December, 2020)

5) [“Key Sources of Inspiration”](#) (51 pages; September, 2021). This papers “Contents” page (page 1) shows a list of 31 key sources of inspiration. These 31 sources of inspiration illustrate three key areas of focus:

1) inner inspiration (why are we doing the work we do?); 2) actual on the ground local collaborative problem solving (visioning) work, building Zero Carbon and Sustainable BioDiversity resilience; and 3) key positive tipping point organizations and institutions

6) [“Becoming a Greater Force Than the Challenges We Are Facing”](#) (6p; August, 2021) Overview of “constellations of initiatives” approach of The CPCS Initiative

7) [“Growing Wisdom and Compassion in Small Communities \(13 Steps\)”](#) (summary document)

[older CPCS Initiative document “13 Steps for Long Term Culture Change” (78 pages; May, 2017) re-titled in 2019]

Optional Resource:

8) [“An Arrangement of Quotations from ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ \(Vol. 1-15\)”](#) (301 pages) (September, 1996--February, 1997) [permission to publish received 2004; revised page references to new editions of ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ (2006)] [“Sathya Sai Speaks” Vol. 1-15 are collections of discourses made by Sri Sathya Sai Baba (1926-2011) during the years 1953-1982.] ([5 page Table of Contents](#)) ([updated preface 11/14/21](#)) [“Three Resources to Learn About Sri Sathya Sai Baba”](#) (3 pages; October, 2021)

### C. Theses

- 1) It is now essential for us to access the storehouses of wisdom and compassion which have accumulated over the many centuries of human experience, and which have been confirmed again and again as essential to individual well-being and social harmony by the saints, sages, spiritual leaders, and sincere practitioners of all religious, spiritual, and moral traditions.
- 2) Wisely directed, the investments of time, energy, and money (the “votes”) each of us make in our everyday circumstances can result in countless ways of earning a living *which contribute to--rather than impair--* Zero Carbon Resilience, Sustainable BioDiversity, gender equitable, socio-cultural equitable (carbon footprints, eco-footprints and water footprints), equal justice, requisite emergency aid, and peaceful outcomes--AND accelerate movement towards the most positive tipping points at the same time. Citizens from every variety of circumstances can learn how to wisely cast such “votes”, through workshops and meetings at Neighborhood Learning Centers (during a Community Visioning Initiative, for example) and through other local learning experiences.
- 3) The CPCS Initiative believes that if many people could see and feel the practical value of carrying out the kind of collaborative problem solving and community education initiatives outlined in [“Becoming a Greater Force Than the Challenges We Are Facing”](#) (6 pages; August, 2021); such collaborative, solution-oriented activity could become a common experience... a common cultural tradition... a cultural tradition which can link many diverse communities of people together, in a fellowship of people working towards the greater good of the whole... and a cultural tradition which can help pass on to future generations the most treasured wisdom human beings have accumulated in more than 5,000 years of human history.

### IV. Specific Assignments

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Week

- A. Indicators and Risk Assessment (CPCS Initiative model) (Reading and Discussion)  
Assignment: Create a ten point assessment of the challenges of our times  
[\[“Unprecedented Challenges Ahead--July 2020” \(2 pages\)\]](#)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Week

- B. Positive Tipping Points and Positive Tipping Point Organizations and Institutions  
Assignment: Focus on one Positive Tipping Point, and Map out related  
Positive Tipping Point Organizations and Institutions  
[\[“Sample List of 231 positive tipping point organizations and institutions” \(12p.; Dec., 2020\)\]](#)

## 3rd Week

## C. Growing Wisdom and Compassion (from “seeds” inherent in all religious, spiritual, and moral traditions)

Assignment: Focus on one specific virtue, and how local specific examples (role models) of this virtue can be brought into the classroom, to answer questions

[["Growing Wisdom and Compassion in Small Communities \(13 Steps\)"](#) (78 pages; May, 2017)]

4<sup>th</sup> Week

## D. Living Lightly Models (and evidence which supports Living Lightly)

Assignment: Essay: Why (or how) will people arrive at choosing to live lightly, especially if they are currently part of the overconsumption problem? (What will motivate this choosing?)

[["Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?"](#) (147 pages; April, 2021)

Section C = keys to multi-solving; downsizing overuse of energy and re-distributing wealth; and making more practical use of wisdom and compassion]

## 5th Week

## E. Collaborative Problem Solving and Peacebuilding

Assignment: Evaluate the Pros and Cons of the following approach to “Maximizing Citizen Participation and Accelerating Solution Activity in a Time of Unprecedented Challenges”

[i.e. evaluate ["Becoming a Greater Force Than the Challenges We Are Facing"](#) (6p; August, 2021)]

consider also

["Growing Wisdom and Compassion in Small Communities \(13 Steps\)"](#) (78 pages; May, 2017)]

6<sup>th</sup> Week

## F. Regenerating and Maintaining Sustainable BioDiversity

Assignment: Focus on one Positive Tipping Point, and Map out related Positive Tipping Point Organizations and Institutions

[["Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?"](#) (147 pages; April, 2021)

Section B = many challenges, unprecedented cultural transformation needed for healthy equilibrium

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Week

G. Final Project

Assignment: write a Course Syllabus (similar to this one) for a 4 week short course in a Community College or other local educational platform, focusing on a field (or fields) of activity which the participant is most interested in catalyzing

V. Grades and Certifications

A. Evaluation: Based on Developing Capacity for Working as a Catalyst in Cultural Transformation

1) It is a matter of effort here. Participants (however experienced or inexperienced) can and should develop noticeably and significantly towards becoming a catalyst (or a better catalyst) for Cultural Transformation by taking this course.

2) Key Outcome: At the end of the 8 weeks, participants will have written a Course Syllabus (similar to this one) for a 8 week course in a Community College or other local educational platform, focusing on a field (or fields) of activity which they are most interested in catalyzing (and they may also be ready to facilitate their own course (that they have just designed). Do they make a good case for how people can learn from their course? Are the assignments useful? Are the resources helpful?

3) Grades will be more in the form of progress evaluation than A, B, C, etc., and also be based on the twice a week meetings (maybe online), and discussion in the discussion forum

B. Certifications

Having a Catalyst in Cultural Transformation Certificate (and Badge) can be a way to emphasize how much we need to have employment available for people with these skills... these kind of learners could be, and should be, multiplying all over the country. So some standards for Systemizing Evaluation and Certification need to be established.