The Flow System – Complexity Thinking (CT-M1)

Syllabus

Description of Course

This Complexity Thinking (CT-M1) master's course is the first in a series of five master-level courses. This course is designed to introduce participants to the concept of complexity. This course will also differentiate between reductionism and connectivism, open and closed systems, and between systems and complexity thinking. Complex adaptive systems will be introduced along with the eight characteristics of complex adaptive systems. Sensemaking and weak signal detection techniques will be introduced.

Duration of Training

The Complexity Thinking (CT-M1) course requires 16 hours of training and can be taken as a two-day in-person training session, an online live virtual class, or as an asynchronous self-paced online training using The Flow System's learning management system (LMS). This course can be taught publicly or privately to any organization.

Participants must complete the training before receiving a code allowing them to take the Complexity Thinking (CT-M1) assessment for accreditation. The fee for the assessment is included in the course fee for training attendees.

At the master's level, participants will demonstrate an ability to apply the new knowledge and complete an online assessment. The master's level courses' application portion will be reviewed by peers and industry experts in their chosen field.

Participants who attend the training will have two attempts at the Complexity Thinking (CT-M1) assessment. Participants who wish to forgo the training and jump straight to the assessment may do so but must first buy a code and will only have one attempt as opposed to two for people taking the training. You can buy a code below by clicking 'Take Assessment.'

Objectives of Course

This course is structured for participants to achieve the following objectives:

- Describe what complexity is.
- Describe the different types of problems.
- Differentiate between complicated, complex, and wicked problems.
- Describe the processes for addressing wicked problems.
- Describe the differences between reductionism and connectivism.
- Define sensemaking and describe when it should be applied.
- Explain the processes for practicing sensemaking.
- Differentiate between open and closed systems.
- Differentiate between systems and complexity thinking.
- Describe the steps for complexity thinking.
- Define complex adaptive systems.
- Describe the eight characteristics of complex adaptive systems.

Outline of Course

- Introductions
- Overview (TFS, Customer 1st, Complexity Thinking)
- What is Complexity
- Types of Problems
- Introduction to the Cynefin Framework
- Open and Closed Systems
- Boundedness
- Systems Theory
- Complex Theory
- Complex Adaptive Systems
- Eight Characteristics of Complex Adaptive Systems
- Systems Thinking -vs- Complexity Thinking
- Sensemaking
- Weak Signal Detection

The Flow System Advanced Accreditation

Participants completing the Foundations (FS-1) training (in-person) or the Foundations (FS-1) course (online), or those who wish to only take the Foundations accreditation exam without participating in training or an online course, can take the exam at any time. Participants who complete training (face-to-face or online) will have two attempts at the exam. Participants who wish to forgo any training may do so and pay to take the exam. Participants who skip any training will have one chance to pass the exam. Upon passing the Foundations Exam, participants will receive a Certification of Completion for The Flow System Foundations Course. Once a Certification of Completion for The Flow System Foundations Course has been obtained, participants can continue to any of the Advanced Courses (see Figure 1). The Flow System Training Map can be found in Figure 1 provided below.

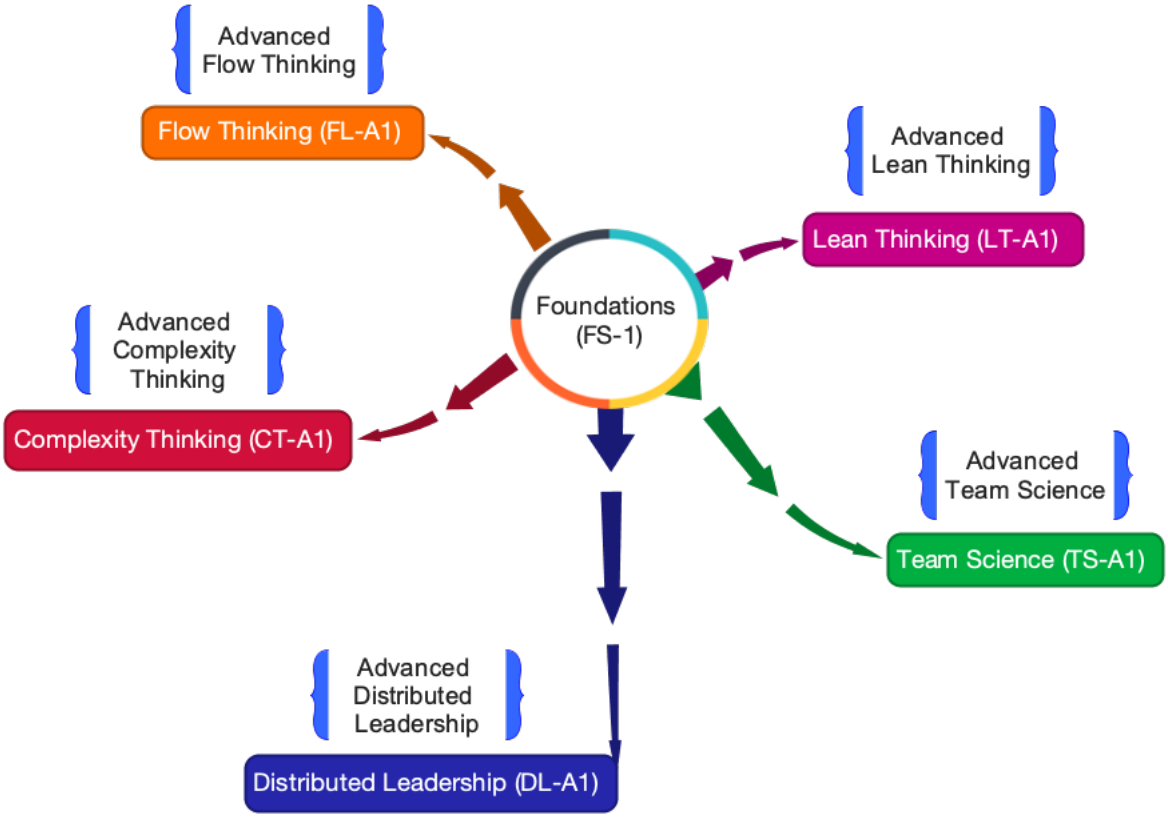

Figure 1: The Flow System Foundations and Advanced Courses

The Flow System Masters Accreditation

There are a total of five master level accreditations to choose from, one to accompany each advanced course. Once the foundations course (FS-1) and the selected advanced course has been successfully completed and the accreditation exam passed, participants can continue to take courses at the master level within the chosen advance track. Participants can only continue to the master level courses after achieving the appropriate advanced accreditation. For example, before taking any of the complexity thinking master level courses (CT-M1 through CT-M5), the foundations (FS-1) and complexity thinking advance (CT-A1) courses must first be successfully completed.

The master level courses for the Complexity Thinking track include the following courses:

- Complexity Thinking (CT-M1)
- Cynefin Framework (CT-M2)
- Complex Facilitation Techniques (CT-M3)
- Advanced Cynefin Framework (CT-M4)
- Complex Decision Making (CT-M5)

A master level accreditation in Complexity Thinking will include the following path:

1. Mastery Complexity Thinking Accreditation
    a. Accredited in the Foundations (FS-1) course
    b. Accredited in the Complexity Thinking (CT-A1) Advanced course
    c. Successful completion of all 5 Mastery Complexity Thinking courses
        i. Complexity Thinking (CT-M1)
        ii. Cynefin Framework (CT-M2)
        iii. Complex Facilitation Techniques (CT-M3)
        iv. Advanced Cynefin Framework (CT-M4)
        v. Complex Decision Making (CT-M5)
    d. Pass Mastery Complexity Thinking Accreditation Exam

Courses	Course Completion & Exam	Accreditation
Foundations Course	★	Foundations Accreditation
Advanced Course Complexity Thinking	★	Advanced Complexity Thinking Accreditation
Mastery Complexity Thinking Courses: CT-M1 + CT-M2 + CT-M3 + CT-M4 + CT-M5	★ + ★ + ★ + ★ + ★	Mastery Complexity Thinking Accreditation

Trainers

The Flow System Foundations Course (in-person) will be administered by the co-creators of The Flow System and/or by certified TFS trainers. The online courses will only be administrated and monitored by the co-creators of The Flow System. All trainers are considered experts in their field of practice/study and have a command of the materials that are presented in The Flow System Foundations Course.

Recommended Readings

The Flow System Reading Materials include 1) *The Flow System: The Evolution of Agile and Lean Thinking in an Age of Complexity*; 2) *The Flow System Guide;* 3) *The Flow System: Key Principles and Attributes;* and 4) *Cynefin: Weaving sense-making into the fabric of our world*.

1) *The Flow System: The Evolution of Agile and Lean Thinking in an Age of Complexity*

   Available from Amazon.

   Hardback:
   https://amzn.com/1680400584/

   Kindle:
   https://amzn.com/B08NXPGMSC/

2) *The Flow System Guide*

   Available online (free)
   https://flowguides.org/index.php

   Amazon book (print-to-order)
   https://amzn.com/B085KN39FP

   Amazon Kindle Format
   https://amzn.com/B085PQFXFN/

3) *The Flow System: Key Principles and Attributes*

   Amazon book (print-to-order)
   https://amzn.com/B085DQB92N/

   Amazon Kindle Format

https://amzn.com/B085DHFNMT/

4) *Cynefin: Weaving sense-making into the fabric of our world*

Cognitive Edge Resource Page
https://www.cognitive-edge.com/cynefin-weaving-sense-making-into-the-fabric-of-our-world/

Amazon Kindle Format
https://www.amazon.com/Cynefin-Weaving-Sense-Making-Fabric-World-ebook/dp/B08LZKDCYM

