

COURSE DETAIL

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABILITY

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Leiden University College

Program(s)

Leiden University College

UCEAP Course Level

Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Environmental Studies

UCEAP Course Number

75

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABILITY

UCEAP Transcript Title

SUSTAINABILITY

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

We are living in an era of increasing population, urbanization, transportation, technology and consumption while experiencing increasingly fewer fundamental resources for humans like food, water, ores, and traditional forms of energy. On top of that, driven by human activities, the Earth undergoes a period of unprecedented environmental change, which by now accounts for all fundamental Earth systems and resource provision. This change, spanning from local to global scales, is one of the most pressing challenges for humanity, and the planet's ecosphere as a whole. This course covers the following topics: states and trends of key environmental components such as biological diversity, soils, freshwater and oceans, climate; main trends of human drivers of environmental and climate change such as population, consumption, land and sea use, and energy use; human activities like deforestation, agriculture, pollution, resource exploitation and construction; the transformation environmental Earth systems to a scale and magnitude unprecedented in Earth history; the importance of maintaining biodiversity; future climate change impacts on environmental and human systems; concepts of sustainability related to renewability and management issues of water, soil, and energy resources; impact of human decisions on our own lives and our planet's future; personal decisions and their collective impact. This course introduces students to environmental issues which emerge from the coupling of natural environmental processes and human systems. By using examples from around the planet, course contents highlight key problems and their underlying causes, human actions that made them an issue, and the struggle for solutions. The goals of the course are to provide students with a knowledge of the interdependence of natural biotic and abiotic Earth systems, resource provision and human systems, and to introduce key observations of human-related changes of Earth systems and their implications for a sustainable use of environmental resources.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABILITY

Host Institution Campus

LUC The Hague- Level 1

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Global Challenges

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