COURSE DETAIL

SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AND SOCIETY
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University – University College Utrecht
Program(s) University College Utrecht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Environmental Studies
UCEAP Course Number 105
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AND SOCIETY
UCEAP Transcript Title SUSTAIN SCI & SOC
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course explores the principles, problems, and methods of sustainability. After a critical historical introduction, the course studies what the natural sciences tell us about processes and cycles on our planet from a systems point of view. Ecology, the end of fossil fuels, alternative energy sources, environmental pollution, loss of biodiversity, and climate change are reviewed. Besides relevant facts, the sciences also provide interpretive theories with important, but often uncertain, implications for the future. The course then moves into environmental ethics and a critical analysis of the relationship of humans to nature. Having heard the facts and discussed values, the course turns to the social, economic, and political aspects of sustainability, and considers the clash between competing interests and different cultures. Possible solutions to such problems are explored, including environmental economics. The relevant agents, government, NGOs, or grass-roots groups are discussed. Finally, the course integrates the different approaches and points of view in an attempt to arrive at policy recommendations. Preferred prerequisites include a course on Earth Studies or Physics.

Note: Was previously code UCINTSUS21 Sustainability. You cannot take both courses; they are the same.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
UCSCIEES24

Host Institution Course Title
SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Host Institution Course Details
https://cursusplanner.uu.nl/Curriculum

Host Institution Campus
University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty Interdisciplinary
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

Print