

COURSE DETAIL

SUSTAINABILITY

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

UCEAP Transcript Title

SUSTAINABILITY

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.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

UCINTSUS21

Host Institution Course Title

SUSTAINABILITY

Host Institution Campus

University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty

Interdisciplinary

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Sustainability

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