COURSE DETAIL

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Berlin Summer
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science Environmental Studies Economics
UCEAP Course Number 114
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title GLOBAL CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
UCEAP Transcript Title SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

This course introduces students to the politics, governance, and ethics of sustainability and examines major current global challenges divided into economic, political, and environmental issues. Climate change is only one of many environmental issues facing the planet, but due to its importance and overwhelming impact, it is given the main focus of this course. The course not only looks at the science behind and consequences of global warming, but also studies the two pillars of the global climate governance: the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The analysis of the UNFCCC process further leads the course to review the Paris Agreement from 2015. The course discusses how effective it can be in dealing with one of the biggest threats of the 21st century and whether it can still achieve its goal of limiting global warming to “well below 2°C/1.5°C”. A special session is devoted to technological, political, social, and economic solutions to environmental issues.

The course explores questions such as do people – as purported by some – need to replace capitalism and stop economic growth in order to prevent further environmental destruction? Or is there a way to move towards a “green growth," and utilize the benefits of the free market to increase environmental protection? This discussion leads the course to the question of what the future will look like. Will people continue to cross planetary boundaries and endanger the capability of different ecosystems? Or will the 21st century witness a major shift away from fossil fuels and environmental destruction to a more sustainable economy? The discussions in the class are complemented by at least two field trips and possibly a visit of a guest speaker.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
3.03

Host Institution Course Title

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fubis.org/2_prog/term_3/syllabi/Scheel_Global-Challenges_A-Track_te...

Host Institution Campus
FUBiS- Track A

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

Print