

COURSE DETAIL

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN HISTORY

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Wageningen University and Research Center

Program(s)

Wageningen University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History Environmental Studies

UCEAP Course Number

114

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN HISTORY

UCEAP Transcript Title

SUSTAINABILITY HIST

UCEAP Quarter Units

5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

How did the Maya civilization collapse? Why did the bubonic plague kill over one third of 14th century European population? How long can current rates of global population be continued? This course introduces the fascinating field of environmental history, focusing on the tensions between economic growth, resource scarcity, and environmental degradation in the distant past as well as in present-day societies. The course pays ample attention to the transition from pre-industrial to industrial modes of production and the environmental consequences thereof - the making of the Anthropocene. We draw analogies from the collapse of ancient civilizations to contemporary environmental problems, such as global warming and mineral resource depletion. The course also specifically addresses the various strategies that historical civilizations have developed in order to survive climate change, deforestation, soil erosion or other ecological threats to human livelihood. Finally, the course addresses the emergence of present-day environmental consciousness in the wake of modern urbanization, industrialization and unprecedented demographic growth.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

RHI31306

Host Institution Course Title

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN HISTORY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://wur.osiris-student.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/cursus>

Host Institution Campus

Wageningen University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Rural and Environmental History

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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