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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