

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

This course introduces students to the 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 gives special attention to the transition from pre-industrial to industrial modes of production and the environmental consequences of that transition: the making of the Anthropocene. Students 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, and 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. After successful completion of this course, students are able to understand the core themes of environmental history; recognize and critically reflect upon the long-term relationship between economic growth, resource scarcity, and environmental damage; assess contemporary environmental problems in a long-term historical perspective, and understand the critical distinction between pre-industrial and industrial modes of production; understand the core issues in recent public debates on the limits and opportunities of global economic growth in the twenty-first century; and report on an independent scientific investigation.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

RHI-50806

Host Institution Course Title

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN HISTORY

Host Institution Campus

Wageningen University

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Rural and Environmental History

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