COURSE DETAIL

CITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY: A TUSCAN EXPERIENCE

Country
Italy

Host Institution
UC Center, Florence

Program(s)
Made in Italy,Italian in Florence,Made in Italy, Florence

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Urban Studies Italian Environmental Studies

UCEAP Course Number
119

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
CITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY: A TUSCAN EXPERIENCE

UCEAP Transcript Title
CITIES ENV&SUSTAIN

UCEAP Quarter Units
5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

This course has three main components. First, it discusses a coherent analytical framework for understanding some of the key ideas and issues informing the debate about the environment and about sustainability today. It examines the principles and practices of sustainable development in the context of urban development. More than half of the world's population are already living in cities and by the middle of this century that figure will rise to more than 65 percent. With rapid urbanization, cities face environmental, economic, and social challenges that pose threats to sustainability of urban development. Second, the course investigates the historical conditions for the contemporary debate about sustainability, reviewing the evolution of different approaches towards the environment from the earliest farming societies to present (post-) industrial societies. The course adopts a ‘Big History' approach to see the overall picture, seeking out common themes and patterns that can help to better address the multiplicity of socioeconomic and environmental issues faced today. The third and major part of the course looks at Tuscany and at Florence in particular, on the basis of the fruitful concept of ‘Urban Metabolisms' to focus attention on the interdependence between cities and their environments. Tuscan cities such as Florence and Siena are often considered ideal models of sustainable urban and rural development as well as of landscape preservation. This ‘Under the Tuscan Sun' image of Tuscany is contrasted by an analysis of the more complex historical realities. Students deconstruct these idealized images of the Tuscan space and to rethink the complex relationship between ‘città and contado' (city and countryside) in the Tuscan past and presence. A variety of key thematic issues and sustainability challenges are explored in the context of Tuscan urban environments, including transport, tourism, water, waste, and food issues. A variety of outdoor activities including a daytrip to the Tuscan countryside offers unique opportunities for students to engage with local community.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
Host Institution Course Title CITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY: A TUSCAN EXPERIENCE
Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus UC Center Florence
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department ACCENT
Course Last Reviewed

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