COURSE DETAIL

PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY: FRAMEWORKS FOR A GREAT TRANSFORMATION

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

UCEAP Course Number
115

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY: FRAMEWORKS FOR A GREAT TRANSFORMATION

UCEAP Transcript Title
SUSTAINABILITY PATH

UCEAP Quarter Units
5.00

UCEAP Semester Units
3.30

Course Description

This course introduces students to the grand challenges of today's world (for example planetary boundaries) and the necessity for a "Great Transformation" toward a sustainable development of our societies. Students examine the systemic characters and the complex dynamics in today's societies, including the individual, organizational, community, regional, national and international levels and their relations and interactions.

One of the major questions explored in the course is which social actors contribute to a transformation towards sustainable development and how - and in what way this happens, which inertias and obstacles stand in the way and could be overcome? What has the German government done, what is the German parliament doing, what is the function of business, sciences or civil society organizations – what happens in Berlin? The course considers the broadest possible spectrum of approaches, strategies and actors for a reflected change towards a Great Transformation in an exemplary manner, as well as thinking theory and practice together (in the sense of transformative science and shaping the future). Students examine the different national, regional and cultural systems and backgrounds for all this. Specific examples which are part of the pathway to sustainability are green taxes, renewable energy projects, cooperative housing, car-free streets and places, urban farming, or even eco-villages.

Additional topics include concepts like path dependency (path management), Multi-Level Perspective – MLP, social innovation, models of change, change agents, MAP – movement action plan. The course includes relevant sociological theories, i.e. social systems theory, practice theory and real utopias. These will give insights into societal factors for stability as well as for change.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
3.18

Host Institution Course Title
PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY: FRAMEWORKS FOR A GREAT TRANSFORMATION

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fubis.org/2_prog/term_3/syllabi/Goell_Pathways-to-Sustainability_B-...

Host Institution Campus
FUBiS - Track B

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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