

COURSE DETAIL

SOCIETAL TRANSITIONS

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University

Program(s)

Utrecht University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Environmental Studies

UCEAP Course Number

112

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

SOCIETAL TRANSITIONS

UCEAP Transcript Title

SOCIETAL TRANSITION

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course teaches the complexities of socio-technical transitions, including the systemic nature of these long-term change processes, and their unfolding across geographical scales (local/regional, national, supra-national/global). Students develop a conceptual understanding of transitions in a multi-scalar context, as well as apply transitions frameworks to the empirical context of their domain of interest (i.e. energy, transport, food, or life sciences). Via guest lectures, students learn about the transition challenges different organizations (including government, industry, consultancy, NGOs and industry associations) are facing and how they make sense of their transitioning systems environment. The course is split into two parts: In the first part, students learn the basics theory and core concepts related socio-technical transitions. Several transition frameworks and concepts, like the Multi-Level Perspective (MLP), Strategic Niche Management (SNM), and transition pathways are taught and are applied to their own societal transitions study. Furthermore, students learn about public policy instruments and the underlying policy rationale for intervening in societal transitions. In the second part of the course, based on the general conceptualizations, students learn how to embed transition dynamics in a specific geographical context. Develop an understanding about the diversity of actor-specific resources, networks, and institutional conditions across space, and explore the regional aspects of a transition in relation to national and global system structures. Throughout the course, students apply the theoretical knowledge to their own empirical case study and develop transition- and region-specific policy interventions to help support their focal societal transition.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

GEO2-2280

Host Institution Course Title

SOCIETAL TRANSITIONS

Host Institution Course Details

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

Host Institution Campus

Utrecht University

Host Institution Faculty

Faculty of Geosciences

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department****Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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