Sustainable Societies FAQ

**Q: What are the benefits of the Sustainable Societies track versus the Classic track?**

A: In Sustainable Societies, students learn how science and social science interact to directly impact our world. Unlike the Classic Track where science and social science are taught separately, in Sustainable Societies students encounter both subjects simultaneously. Sustainable Societies also uses problem-based learning and group work to encourage students to think critically and communicate effectively about scholarly as well as professional and practical topics, and to solve real-world problems. Also, research experiences provided within the track will help prepare students for their senior-year thesis projects.

**Q: Why should I choose this track as a science major?**

A: The topics of Sustainable Societies are often relevant to the interests of science majors and the examination of real-world issues of sustainability gives students the chance to develop practical skills that can aid them in their future careers.

A student’s perspective - “I was initially drawn to this sustainability course because of the science. There was more that I wanted to learn about climate change, since this topic was usually just summed up in 1 lecture at the end of the year. Besides instilling the scientific foundation of climate change causation and solutions, this course has also introduced me to the social implications of climate change solutions from governance to economics. Learning about these interrelated issues existing within sustainability is very intriguing.

I have really enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with people from different disciplines to tackle these complex societal issues. Every student provides a unique perspective that strengthens our conversation regarding the community as a whole. Sustainability will affect you no matter which career path you choose. It is through learning and conversing with different people that we can improve this society one step at a time.” – Marvin Paguio, 3rd year Human Biology major (mjpaguio@uci.edu).

**Q: Can I take Sustainable Societies and study abroad?**

A: Yes! There is some flexibility in the order of the Sustainable Societies track. Please discuss your study abroad plans with a CHP advisor to determine the ideal order of the course for your situation.

**Q: Can I take both years of Sustainable Societies at the same time?**

A: Yes! If this is your plan, make sure to indicate it on your CHP course plan and contact honors@uci.edu prior to fall enrollment to ensure that you are authorized to sign up for both classes.

**Q: Can I switch between the Sustainable Societies track and Classic track?**
A: It depends. We want you to be in the track that is right for you, but there are limited spaces in each track as well. If you feel you need to switch tracks, you will need to submit a petition [link to http://honors.uci.edu/academics/petitions-for-exceptions/]. If your petition is granted, you are expected to complete the entirety of the track you switch to, even if you have already made progress in your previous track.