- Faculté des sciences
- www.unine.ch/sciences

Natural ecosystems of Switzerland (3BL2280)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en biologie	**Cours: 3 j**	**Voir ci-dessous**	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

This is a team-taught course. The first day (or two half days) will be given by experts of InfoFlora - the Swiss institution in charge of floristic databases, plus one expert from InfoFauna. The next two days will consist of excursions in nature reserve near Neuchatel and will be guided by experts from InfoFauna and professional biologists working in these nature reserves. For administrative and organizational question please contact Christophe Praz.

Contenu

Habitat characterization is a central aspect of nature conservation. In Switzerland, there is a well-developed protocol for the classification and description of habitats, and this habitat characterization is used on a daily basis in conservation biology. It even plays a crucial role in habitat protection since some habitat types are protected by law.

During this field-oriented lecture, the students will get an introduction to this habitat classification method (one day), and then visit various natural habitats in Switzerland to get familiar with the main habitat types. The focus will be to identify and locate characteristic species (those species "defining" each habitat type), and to compare "pristine" habitats with secondary habitats that have been subjected to restoration or conservation measures. The conservation challenges for each habitat types will be presented and available solutions discussed.

Although plant species underlie habitat characterization, many specific habitat types host specialized animal species. We will also invest time to try to locate these specialized animal species whenever possible and present you the challenges of their conservation.

Note that parts of this course may be given in French, depending on the expert.

Forme de l'évaluation

Written exam 1h during exams session
In case of insuficient grade not compensated in the module, a reexamination must be registered at another exam session.

Pré-requis

Basic knowledge of the Swiss Flora is required to follow this class (Bachelor class in Botany is adequate).

Forme de l'enseignement

Three days or a combination of several half days and full day-excursions. One full day excursion will take place on Saturday the 29.05.2021.
The other half days will probably take place on Thursdays afternoon.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Compare different habitats during excursions
- Discuss the method of habitat classification developed and used in Switzerland
- Examine the main threats to each habitat types
- Evaluate how conservation and restoration measures may be applied in each case