

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

Natural ecosystems of Switzerland (3BL2280)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en biologie	Cours: 28 ph	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 two half days will be given by experts of InfoFlora - the Swiss institution in charge of floristic databases, plus one expert from info fauna. The next four days will consist of excursions in nature reserve near Neuchâtel and will be guided by experts from info fauna and professional biologists working in these nature reserves. For administrative and organizational question please contact Sylvain Ursenbacher (sylvain.ursenbacher@unine.ch)

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 insufficient grade not compensated in the module, a reexamination must be registered at another exam session.

Modalités de rattrapage

two exams sessions: June and August

Documentation

Delarze et al., (2015) Guide des milieux naturels de Suisse, Rossolis

Pré-requis

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

Forme de l'enseignement

A combination of several half days and full day-excursions.

The first afternoon will be focused on the habitat description and classification (22.3)

Half day excursion in some meadows near le Landeron (19.4)

Half day excursion in some agricultural landscape (Jura region; 26.4)

Half day excursion in the Grande Cariçaie near Cudrefin (3.5)

One full day excursion in les Bois de Finges (Wallis; 24.5)

Half day excursion in the peat bog near Les Ponts-de-Martel (31.5)

Participants come to the meeting places on their own. It is possible to reach all the meeting places by public transport. Where additional travel is required, vehicles will be organised with the university's vehicles and/or the participants' private vehicles, in agreement with them.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

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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