

## ENV 350: Environmental Management in Switzerland

### I. COURSE INFORMATION

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Prof. Patrick Della Croce
<b>Instructor's Email:</b>	pdellacroce@fus.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tue/Fri 10:00 – 11:30 (by appointment only) Thu 10:30 – 12:30 (first come – first serve)
<b>Class location:</b>	SCI LAB (North Campus)
<b>Class meeting times:</b>	Tue/Fri 14:30 – 15:45

### II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Serving as an introduction to environmental management in Switzerland, this course draws from case studies and current examples. Students learn how the Swiss manage and exploit forests, agricultural areas, and aquatic systems. Students further explore the cultural and economic importance of natural resources and wildlife in Switzerland, the policies behind their protection and use, and the challenges Switzerland faces in managing them. The course includes multiple required trips to local points of interest including a weekend field-trip. (from Franklin Course Catalog).

### III. RATIONALE

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This course satisfies the Environmental Sciences and Studies core requirements (for ESS major, ESS minor, and combined major) as well as the Sustainability and Social Justice requirements (SJS major).

### IV. COURSE GOALS

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The broad goals of this course are: (a) to make students familiar with the ecology, status, use, and management of Swiss ecosystems and natural resources and (b) to provide students the tools necessary to understand the relationship between Swiss society and its natural environment.

### V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Students who successfully pass this course will be able to demonstrate their ability to:

- Explain basic concept of geology and meteorology, apply these concepts to Switzerland, and explain how geology and meteorology influence and shape Swiss ecosystems' diversity and distribution.
- Recall major historical events that led to modern Switzerland and discuss on their influence in shaping Swiss society's relationship with natural resources.
- Understand the structure of the basic functioning of Swiss government and explain how it affects the management and exploitation of Swiss natural resources.
- Describe the main ecosystem types of Switzerland, their ecology and functioning, and understand the main issues and threats they are currently facing.
- Describe and understand main issues associated with sustainability and social justice in the Swiss context.

- Collect (from peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed sources), critically analyze, present, and debate information regarding course related issues in a clear and structured way, both in oral and written form.

## **VI. COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

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Readings will be distributed or assigned in class or posted on Moodle.

## **VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

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At the end of the semester you will receive a final score between 0 and 100%, based on:

In-class participation	5%
Homework and assignments	10%
Exams and Quizzes	30%
Final Project	20%
Final exam	35%

Nonattendance may lower your final score as described below.

## **VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

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### **In-class participation:**

This score reflects your participation and contributions during lectures and during field trips.

### **Homework and assignments:**

This score reflects how well – on average – you completed homework assignments (e.g., presentations, debates...). In general all assignments contribute equally to this grade.

### **Exams, Quizzes:**

This score reflects your average performance in the midterm exam and in possible unannounced quizzes. Missed unannounced quizzes will not be counted. There will be no make-up for missed unannounced quizzes.

### **Final Exam:**

This score reflects your performance in the final exam (cumulative).

### **Final Project:**

This score reflects the quality of your final project presentation and/or paper.

### **Attendance:**

Class attendance is required. You may miss 2 classes without penalty (including justified absences). In general, I will reduce your final score by 5% for each further missed class.

## **IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

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Based on your overall score, your final grade will be determined as follows:

Excellent		A = 100% - 93%	A- = 92.9% - 90%
Good	B+ = 89.9% - 87%	B = 86.9% - 83%	B- = 82.9% - 80%
Adequate	C+ = 79.9% - 77%	C = 76.9% - 73%	C- = 72.9% - 70%
Inadequate	D+ = 69.9% - 67%	D = 66.9% - 63%	D- = 62.9% - 60%
Poor	F = below 60%		

Refer to Moodle (or the FUS Catalog) for a more detailed explanation of grades.

## **X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)**

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This course will involve several discussions, and so it is crucial that you come prepared to class and are active during lectures. This means that you should: a) complete any reading or homework assignments before class; b) take notes during class; c) regularly review your notes, and; d) contact me (or ask questions during class) in case something is unclear.

If you miss a class it is your responsibility to find out (from fellow students!) what material was covered and what announcements were made during the missed class. This is important as there may be unannounced quick tests at the beginning of classes, and missing classes will not count as an excuse to not take or count a quiz.

## **XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied. See the Academic Catalog for full statement.

## **XII. COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to change. See Moodle or class for changes)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Topic</b>
1	Tue	22 Jan.	Introduction and course overview
	Fri	25 Jan.	Habitat formation and meteorology
2	Tue	29 Jan.	Kinds of environments and most representative species
	Fri	01 Feb.	Swiss history and Swiss political system
3	Tue	05 Feb.	Switzerland and environment, part I: strategy and cartography
	Fri	08 Feb.	Switzerland and environment, part II: tourism
4	Tue	12 Feb.	Agriculture, part I: history and importance
	Fri	15 Feb.	Agriculture, part II: current management and legislations
5	Tue	19 Feb.	Agriculture, part III: current and future challenges
	<i>Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> (Friday): February Break - no classes</i>		
6	Tue	26 Feb.	Forests, part I: kinds of forests and history of forest management
	Fri	01 Mar.	Forests, part II: current forest management
7	Tue	05 Mar.	Forests, part III: riparian vegetation management
	Fri	08 Mar.	Midterm exam
<i>Mar. 09<sup>th</sup> - Mar. 23<sup>th</sup> : Academic Travel - no class</i>			
10	Tue	26 Mar.	Rivers and lakes, part I: kinds and status
	Fri	29 Mar.	Rivers and lakes, part II: use and management
11	Tue	02 Apr.	Rivers and lakes, part III: Revitalizations
	Fri	05 Apr.	Rivers and lakes, part IV: Management of Lake Lugano
12	Tue	09 Apr.	Groundwater management
	Fri	12 Apr.	Management of natural threats
13	Tue	16 Apr.	Management of wildlife and large predators
	Fri	19 Apr.	Future challenges (part I): TBD
14	Tue	23 Apr.	Future challenges (part II): TBD
	Fri	26 Apr.	Project preparation
15	Tue	30 Apr.	Project presentations
	Fri	03 Mai	Review and Course evaluation
16	<i>May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup> Finals' week</i>		
	<i>Final Exam: Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> - 13:30-15:30 - SCI LAB</i>		