Summary
This course provides a general introduction to Swiss history, its culture, its economy and its political system since 1848 until today.

Content
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COURSE IS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS ONLY (i.e. students who did not attend Swiss schools before University). During the fall semester, two-hour lectures will give a general introduction to Swiss history, culture, economy and politics and discuss Swiss particularities such as the question of languages, the system of direct democracy, Switzerland’s strong economic position, and the country’s firm engagement on the international scene.

Study Plan:
I. Mapping Switzerland
II. Switzerland as a cultural and political labyrinth
III. The Wealth of a nation
IV. Switzerland and the world.

During the spring semester the students will be asked to write a research paper on a specific subject, which they will select in consultation with the instructors.

Keywords
Switzerland, history, culture, political institutions, economic structure, foreign policy.

POLY-perspective:
• interdisciplinary perspective
• citizen perspective

https://www.epfl.ch/schools/cdh/cdhs-vision/

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
• Analyze the key factors of the political, economic and social development of Switzerland
• Contextualise the main phases of Swiss history from 1848 and replace them in their international context
• Synthesize the main elements of Swiss history, its culture, its economy and its political system
• Argue about the causes of the wealth of a nation

Transversal skills
• Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking

Teaching methods
- Fall Semester: Ex cathedra courses
- Spring Semester: Tutorial for research paper

Expected student activities
Active participation in class during the fall semester. Paper to be written within a group of 3-4 students on Swiss history during the spring semester (project in Swiss history + oral presentation).

Assessment methods
Evaluation on a semester basis (grade associated to 3 ECTS). Fall semester evaluation is about knowledge acquisition (25% short report on a conference held during the semester; 75%: multiple choice questionnaire exam). Spring semester evaluation is about the realization of the project. More information is given at the beginning of the academic year.

Supervision
Office hours No
Assistants No
Forum No

Resources
Bibliography

Ressources en bibliothèque
• Contemporary Switzerland: Revisiting the Special Case / Kriesi
• Switzerland, National Socialism, and the Second World War
• A Concise History of Switzerland / Church
• Switzerland in Europe / Trampusch