Summary
This course examines growth from various angles: population growth, economic growth, growth in the use of resources, growing inequality, need for growth, limits to growth, sustainable growth. Although grounded in economics, it takes up elements from many other disciplines.

Content
In the second semester, the participants select a topic they want to develop using the concepts and tools presented in the first semester. It can be a topic touched upon in the first semester, e.g. population aging, rising inequalities or the depletion of a resource. It can also be a topic not yet addressed, e.g. deforestation, the role of innovation or education for growth. What is important is that the topic is an important component of economic growth and sustainable development and that the analysis relates to the material treated in the first semester. Case studies at the level of countries or regions are strongly encouraged.

Participants develop their topic in groups of three. In principle, the first hour of each week will be devoted to topical lectures.

Keywords
Sustainable development, demography, economy, growth, environment.

POLY-perspective:
• interdisciplinary perspective
• global perspective

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

Learning Prerequisites
Required courses
HUM-471 Economic growth and sustainability I

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
• Critique theories and proposals related to economic growth and sustainable development
• Reason on social and economic issues
• Explain the relationships between economic, demographic and environmental variables
• Compute growth rates and the links between growth rates
• Differentiate between scientific and propaganda arguments
• Restate concepts and mechanisms seen in class

Transversal skills
• Assess progress against the plan, and adapt the plan as appropriate.
• Plan and carry out activities in a way which makes optimal use of available time and other resources.
• Communicate effectively with professionals from other disciplines.
• Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
• Evaluate one’s own performance in the team, receive and respond appropriately to feedback.
• Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
• Make an oral presentation.

Teaching methods
This semester is dedicated to conducting research in groups. It aims at promoting teamwork in the formulation of a problem and its resolving, in a project logic.

Expected student activities
Students pick a topic related to the themes and methods developed in class and prepare a critical analysis of this topic (written report of about 15-20 pages long, not counting references and appendix, if any) before presenting it to the class.

Assessment methods
Intermediate exam on the material taught in the first hour of class (30% of final grade).
Graded report (60%) and oral presentation with Q&A (10%) in the last week of the semester.

Supervision
Office hours    Yes
Assistants     Yes
Forum          Yes

Resources
Bibliography
See Economic growth and sustainability I

Moodle Link
• https://moodle.epfl.ch/course/view.php?id=16151