

HUM-470

Economic growth and sustainability II

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Humanities and Social Sciences	MA2	Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Withdrawal	Unauthorized
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	During the semester
Workload	90h
Weeks	14
Hours	3 weekly
Project	3 weekly
Number of positions	
It is not allowed to withdraw from this subject after the registration deadline.	

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.

Depending on the number of students, participants will develop their topic individually or in small groups. They will present their analysis in class.

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 individually or 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 the first semester and prepare a critical analysis of this topic before presenting it to the class. Students participate actively in the presentations and discussions of other groups.

Assessment methods

Graded report and oral presentation. Active participation is also taken into account in the overall grade. Report: 50%, Presentation: 30%, Participation: 20%.

Supervision

Office hours	No
Assistants	Yes
Forum	Yes

Resources

Bibliography

See Economic growth and sustainability I