

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
<b>Hours</b>	<b>3 weekly</b>
Project	3 weekly

**Number of positions**

**Il n'est pas autorisé de se retirer de cette matière après le délai d'inscription.**

**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 of 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>