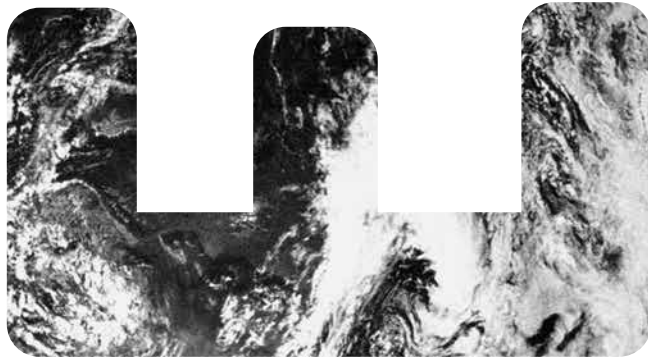


Geografie
Ergänzungsfach



Geography: possible, probable, and preferable futures

eGEO will be taught in English, allowing you to delve into the world of academic English. The course is open to students in both the immersion and non-immersion track. The focus will lie on examining **possible, probable, and preferable** futures. A futures education allows you to think critically and creatively about how actions today can have an impact on the future, and which of those futures are most likely. By introducing the question of preferable futures, you will be encouraged to grapple with different perspectives and the social, political and economic factors which shape those perspectives, both locally and globally.

An early and defining feature of eGEO will be a three to four-day excursion to the Alps in the Valais. We will set up base at the Villa Cassel, an extravagant early 20th century villa located on the Riederfurka, only a short walk away from breathtaking views of the magnificent Aletsch Glacier. Villa Cassel is an excellent starting point for glacier hikes allowing for first-hand experience of glacial processes, possibilities for fieldwork in both human and physical geography, and insights into energy production in Switzerland.

The excursion will act as a springboard for the main topics that we will cover over the course of the year. Most topics will combine aspects of human and physical geography, always maintaining a futures mindset. The topics will include:

- Physical processes and economic opportunities in cold environments
- Climate change and geopolitics in cold environments
- The paradox of sustainable tourism
- The future of energy (e.g., floatovoltaics, agrovoltaics, storage/batteries)

The course will be a combination of teacher-led lessons and project-based learning.

eGEO will be co-taught by Kathleen Noreisch and Joel Franceschi.

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Figure 1: The Aletsch Glacier, the largest glacier in the Alps, as viewed from the Riederfurka. Photograph: Kathleen Noreisch



Figure 2: The melting of Arctic ice will result in a race for control over transportation routes and precious minerals with far-reaching geopolitical impacts. Source: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24132150-300-this-stunning-map-shows-why-everyone-is-fighting-over-the-arctic/>



Figure 3: The world's first high-altitude floating solar farm, in the canton of Valais. © Romande Energie



Figure 4: The Villa Cassel, built at the turn of the 20th century for English nobleman Ernest Cassel on the Riederfurka in the Valais Alps. Photograph: Nicolas Ruh