

# Master in Life Sciences

A cooperation between  
BFH, FHNW, HES-SO, ZFH

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Politics and Society</b>
<b>Code</b>	B4
<b>Degree Programme</b>	Master of Science in Life Sciences
<b>Workload</b>	3 ECTS (90 student working hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lessons contact (total 42 of which 28 central teaching): 32 h</li> <li>- Self-study: 58 h</li> </ul>
<b>Module Coordinator</b>	<b>Name:</b> Dr Ian Jennings <b>Phone:</b> +49 152 5456 5915 <b>E-mail:</b> ian.jennings@fhnw.ch <b>Address:</b> Brückenstr. 5, D-79541 Lörrach, Germany
<b>Lecturers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Jennings</li> <li>• Guest lecturer(s)</li> </ul>
<b>Entry requirements</b>	Several pre-course readings for the B4 module in pdf or mp4 form will be provided at the beginning of the semester.
<b>Learning outcomes and competences</b>	<p>After completing the module, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examine critically the fundamental assumptions underlying the politics and culture of today's Western-style democracies, and, in particular</li> <li>• explain how these assumptions affect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the actual practices of today's Western-style democracies and</li> <li>- the professional practices of life scientists,</li> </ul> </li> <li>• explain how global political issues affect the professional practices of life scientists,</li> <li>• respond in writing in a structured, critical, and ethical manner to the dilemmas and assumptions encountered in the study of local and global politics and culture and their effects on the professional practices of life scientists.</li> </ul>
<b>Module contents</b>	<p>This module seeks to bring students to an understanding of the interconnected nature of professional practice as a life scientist, the local political system in which such practice functions, the global political system in which the local political system functions, and the ethical and philosophical commitments and assumptions which shape the practices of politics and business.</p> <p>In line with these objectives the module has four pillars:</p> <p>First "How Modern Western-Style Democracies Function". This section provides an introduction to the practice of Democracy in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, focusing on Representation, Elections, and Lobbying.</p> <p>Second "How Modern Western-Style Democracies Think". The issues discussed in this part of the course would include the concept of Human Rights, the relation between Law and Ethics, and the purpose and justification of Democratic Governance.</p> <p>Third, "Globalised Political Issues". These issues would include Migration and various forms of Globalisation.</p> <p>Fourth "How the Life Sciences are Affected" – an examination of the practical effects of the political context on the Life Sciences professions, in which various contemporary examples and cases will serve as material for discussion, exercises, and debates. About six cases/issues which will serve as the primary focus of the decentralised classes (two hours will be devoted to each). Examples are the research uses of the "immortal" cancerous cell line of Henrietta Lacks, political manipulation of controversies regarding the use of</p>

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	antibiotics in livestock farming, the controversy regarding the misuse and marketing of the opioid drug OxyContin, and ethical and regulatory questions arising from the use of cell therapy techniques such as Kymriah.																																								
<b>Teaching / learning methods</b>	<p>This module has the following structure:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Week</th> <th>&lt;1</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>6</th> <th>7</th> <th>&gt;7</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Central</b></td> <td></td> <td>4L</td> <td></td> <td>8L</td> <td></td> <td>8L</td> <td></td> <td>8L</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Local</b></td> <td></td> <td>2L</td> <td>4L</td> <td></td> <td>4L</td> <td></td> <td>4L</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Self-study</b></td> <td>20h</td> <td colspan="6">18h</td> <td></td> <td>20h</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* 2 hours for exam preparation (questions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (centralised), including those of guest lecturers</li> <li>• Tutorial-style (decentralised) classes, which would include exercises and debates</li> <li>• Written essays, premised on student research</li> </ul> <p>The 58 hours of self-study will be taken up by a combination of pre-course reading (and the viewing of video material), the readings required for the centralised and decentralised sequences, participation in teamwork projects, and the research and writing necessary for turning in the short individual essay (which will be submitted at the halfway point of the course). Close guidance will be given in all cases, and the students' progress will be monitored.</p>	Week	<1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	>7	<b>Central</b>		4L		8L		8L		8L		<b>Local</b>		2L	4L		4L		4L			<b>Self-study</b>	20h	18h							20h
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<b>Assessment of learning outcome</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Short individual essay (maximum of 500 words; an application of the module material to contemporary issues affecting the Life Sciences professions), to be handed in during the module (50%)</li> <li>2. Final written exam (open book) (50%)</li> </ol>																																								
<b>Format</b>	7 weeks																																								
<b>Timing of the module</b>	For ZHAW and FHNW: Spring semester, CW 15-21 For BFH and HES-SO: Autumn semester, CW 45-51																																								
<b>Venue</b>	For ZHAW and FHNW: Olten For BFH and HES-SO: Fribourg																																								
<b>Bibliography</b>	<p>Extracts from the following books will be used in the module:</p> <p>Rebecca Skloot <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> Crown Publishers (2010)            Vincent Kucholl <i>Swiss Democracy in a Nutshell</i> Bergli Books (2014)            Bernard Crick <i>Democracy</i> Oxford UP (2002)            Andrew Clapham <i>Human Rights</i> (2ed) Oxford UP (2015)            Manfred Steger <i>Globalization</i> (4ed) Oxford UP (2017)            Andrew Heywood <i>Politics</i> Palgrave MacMillan (4ed) (2013)            Gary Comstock (ed.) <i>Life Science Ethics</i> Springer (2ed) (2010)</p> <p>Shorter articles and extracts on various topics will also be provided.</p>																																								
<b>Language</b>	English																																								
<b>Links to other modules</b>																																									
<b>Comments</b>																																									
<b>Last Update</b>	05.04.2018																																								