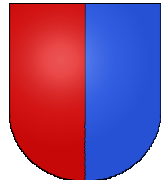




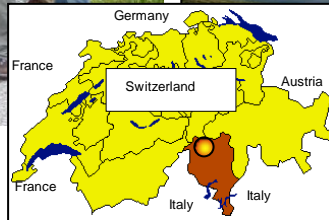
## SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

### IN THE SWISS ALPS, Term B, Summer 2018



#### **Arthropod biodiversity and ecology of the Swiss Alps, BIOL 5543/G, 4 credit hours**

The Swiss Alps are known for their beauty as well as their great biodiversity and unique fauna and flora. The Alps are a delicate ecosystem where human activities and conservation of natural resources have often been competing for many centuries. The Piora region in southern Switzerland is an excellent example of an Alpine area where conflicting interests have learned to live in harmony. The Piora Alpine Biology Center (<http://www.cadagno.ch/>) is located at about 6000 ft altitude in the Alps of the Italian part of Switzerland. It was initially created for the study of a local meromictic lake which is known for its peculiar bacteriological flora, but has now attracted scientists interested in various aspects of Alpine biology from all over the world. The Center is equipped with very affordable and rustic-seeming but modern lodging facilities, laboratories, and classrooms.



In this Study Abroad course, students will learn how to prepare for a field expedition in a foreign country. On site, students will carry out collaborative field projects based on observation, collection, identification and analysis of the local arthropod fauna. While in Piora, other scientists will be invited to give seminars on their work, giving our students the opportunity to interact with Swiss researchers and students.

During weekends, students are encouraged to explore the region, which is known for its diverse cultural attractions, including a number of remarkable UNESCO World Heritage sites. Swiss (Zürich, Bern, Geneva, Bellinzona, and Locarno) and North Italian towns (Como and its lake, Milano, Torino, Verona) can easily be reached by train from the Piora region. Switzerland itself is noted for its civility, safety and strong infrastructure, and is an excellent destination for a first time visitor to Europe.

#### **Program information:**

This is an upper-level Biology elective section of BIOL 5543/G, *Field Experiences in Biology*, for graduate and undergraduate students in the Biology Department and all other qualified students interested in conservation, ecology, and the biodiversity of arthropods and plants. Prerequisites: BIOL 2107 & 2108 or equivalent. It is co-taught by Drs. Lorenza Beati & Bill Irby. The program will consist of two weeks of preparatory coursework at GSU, followed by a travel break, and two weeks in the Swiss Alps. Additional time to travel in Switzerland and elsewhere in Europe is available after the end of the course.

**Program cost:** \$2000 (includes transportations within Switzerland (from Zurich to Piora and return), food, lodging, insurance). Airfare, tuition, fees and housing in Statesboro are additional.

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