



Discipline of Geography 2nd year timetable 2024/2025

Semester 1

ECTs	Second Year	Coordinator	Day, Time
5	TI251 Theory & Practice (core)	Dr Kevin Lynch	Tues 1pm: AMB 1023 Mairtin O tNuthail Theatre Wed 5pm: AUC G002
5	Please select only one TI254 Space, Place & Irish Landscape	Prof Ulf Strohmayer	Mon 10am: Joseph Larmor Theatre Mon 1pm – Dillon Theatre
	OR TI216 Weather & Climate	Dr Gordon Bromley	Mon 10am: AC002 Emily Anderson Theatre Mon 1pm: ENG2002
	OR BSS2103 Intro to Sustainability (<i>Designing Futures Module</i>)	Dr Gesche Kindermann	Tuesday 9-11am: Alice Perry Building, CE342
5	Please select only one TI235 Biogeography	Dr Terry Morley	Wed 3pm: IT 250 Theatre First Floor Thurs 10am: IT 250 Theatre First Floor
	OR TI229 Political & Cultural Geography	Dr Elaine Williams	Wed 3pm – Charles McMunn Theatre Fri 9am – Joseph Larmor Theatre
10	TI2102 Introduction to GIS	Dr Oisín Callery	Mon 10am: AUC G002, Aras Ui Chathail

Semester 2

5	TI252 Theory & Practice (core)	Dr Kevin Lynch	Mon 1pm: Anderson Lecture Theatre Wed 5pm: AUC G002 Theatre Aras Ui Chathail
5	Please select only one TI2109 Sustainable Planning in Marine Environments	Dr Liam Carr	Mon 10am: IT250 First Floor Tues 1pm: Fottrell Theatre
	OR TI2108 Introduction to Palaeoclimatology	Dr Aaron Potito	Mon 10am: Tyndall Theatre Tues 1pm: Venue AC214
	OR AJ2114 Communicating through Storytelling(<i>Designing Futures Module</i>)	TBC	TBC
5	Please select only one TI248 Coastal Environments	Dr Eugene Farrell	Wed 3pm: IT250 Theatre, First Floor Fri 10am: AMB1023 Mairtin O’Tnuthail Theatre
	OR TI236 Environmental Planning: Principles & Processes	Dr Elaine Williams	Wed 3pm: AM150 Mairtin O Tnuthail Theatre Fri 9am: Anderson Lecture Theatre

***** 15 ects are required for semester 1 and 15 ects for semester 2, so 60 ects in total for the year. Students, please ensure to contact the discipline if you are short or over credits immediately.**

Key contacts in Geography

Head of Geography	Dr Liam M. Carr
Geography Administrator	Christina Costello
Senior Technician	Billy Hamilton
2 BA Programme Coordinator	Dr Kevin Lynch
BA International / Visiting Students / Erasmus	Professor Ulf Strohmayer
Staff-Student Liaison Officer	Billy Hamilton
Plagiarism Matters	Dr Kathy Reilly
Safety Officer	Billy Hamilton

Academic Calendar 2024/2025

Academic Year 2024 -2025	
Orientation 1st years	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Start of teaching - 1st years*	Monday 16th September*
End of teaching - 1st years*	Friday 29th November * (11 weeks of teaching)
Start of teaching all years	Monday 9th September
End of teaching all years	Friday 29th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 2nd December to Friday 6th December
Semester 1 exams start	Monday 9th December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday 20th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 21st December
2025	
Start of Teaching	Monday 13th January 2025
End of Teaching	Friday 4th April (12 weeks of teaching)
Field Trips	Monday 7th April to Thursday 10th April (4 working days as in 2020/21, 2022/23, 2023/24)
Study Week	Friday 11th April to Thursday, 17th April
Semester 2 Exams Start	Tuesday, 22nd April
Easter	Good Friday 18th April to Easter Monday 21st April 2025
Semester 2 Exams End	Friday, 9th May (13 days of exams)
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 5th to Friday 15th August (9 days of exams)
Holidays	Easter: Good Friday 18th April to Easter Monday 21st April 2025
	Bank Holidays: Monday 28th October 2024 / Monday, 3rd February, 2025 / Monday, 17th March 2025
	Monday 5th May 2025/ Monday 2nd June 2025 / Monday 4th August 2025

[\[Further info\]](#)

2BA Geography Module Outlines 2024/2025

Module: TI 251 - Theory and Practice I (compulsory)
Lecturer: Dr Kevin Lynch

The aim of this module is to further develop your understanding of the various aspects of doing geographical research and producing geographical knowledge. The focus is on four existing research clusters prioritised by Geography at NUI Galway: 1. Environmental Change; 2. Rural Change and Development; 3. Geopolitics and Justice; 4. Planning and Sustainability. You will be introduced to key concepts pertinent to each research cluster, supported by empirically- and theoretically-based case study examples of research being conducted by Geography academic staff at NUI Galway. You will gain a deeper understanding of the integration of theory and practice in geography. This module aims to provide a basis to develop your undergraduate research (dissertation) projects in your final year, and through this, a foundation for potential future study in Geography's postgraduate programmes.

Upon completion of this course, you will have:

- a deeper understanding of knowledge production in geographical research;
- a critical understanding of contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches to doing research in geography;
- the ability to think critically about what it means to 'do' geography.

Module: TI 229 – Political and Cultural Geography
Lecturer: Dr Elaine Williams

This module provides a critical analysis of key concepts in political and cultural geography. Drawing on key geographic concepts the module provides a framework for understanding contemporary events with respect to culture, politics and the nation-state. It is divided into a series of distinct sections. The course begins with an analysis of issues linked to territoriality and the concepts of nationalism and the development of the nation-state. It progresses to examine focal events and issues associated with religious nationalism, racism, discrimination and the evils of genocide. This module also provides an introduction to the arenas of classical and critical geopolitics, interrogating aspects of a post 9/11 world. It will conclude by looking at the powerful position that the media holds in the transmission of knowledge and the legitimisation of action. A number of political and cultural geographies will be examined to illustrate concepts from the lectures and key readings, including: the construction of national identity in Ireland; division and conflict in Israel/Palestine; genocide in Bosnia and Rwanda; and the globalisation of terror.

Module: TI 216 – Weather & Climate
Lecturer: Dr Gordon Bromley

This course is designed to provide students with applied example of weather and climate phenomena that have a strong impact on human activities. Each week will focus on an acute environmental problem that will be explained and analysed in in-class exercises. Case studies will focus on weather (e.g. storms, hurricanes, drought, flooding) and climate (e.g. past climate change and future global warming) events to provide students with context.

(Language of instruction: English)

Learning Outcomes

- Sketch and explain simple diagrams, maps, or figures relating to weather and climate related environmental issues.
- Explain extreme weather events (including storms and heat waves) in Ireland.
- Explain risks associated with global warming for Ireland and Europe.
- Discuss mechanisms controlling global and regional climatologies (e.g. Monsoons, El Niño)
- Diagram and explain positive and negative feedbacks in climate systems
- Use examples from Earth history to explain how Earth's climate changes on a variety of different timescales
- Comprehend a basic weather map

Module: TI248 Coastal Environments
Lecturer: Dr Eugene Farrell

The purpose of this module is to train students on the physical principles used to understand some basic questions about the Earth's physical landscape: how do natural physical systems (e.g., coastal beach-dune systems; river catchment systems) behave today? how did they behave in the past? and, based on the answers to the first two questions, can we predict how they will behave in the future? In order to answer these questions we examine the characteristics of different processes (water, wind, slope, weather) that shape different landforms in different regions of the world, including some classic case studies in Ireland. This course examines landscape form and function, working through from the theoretical understanding of the landscape to hands-on practical fieldwork by collecting, analysing and presenting data. Emphasis is put on critical analyses of the process-landform models (e.g. sediment transfers; system equilibria) operating on different time scales (seconds to millennia). A core aspect of the course will focus on using a field-based systems approach, emphasizing (1) the connectivity of the different components of our landscape, and (2) how our landscape responds to human and natural pressures.

Module: TI 254 - Space, Place and the Irish Landscape

Lecturer: Professor Ulf Strohmayer

This jointly taught module aims critically to explore the historical and contemporary complexities of Irish culture, place and landscape through select case-studies, thematic and/or locational, and through a range of theoretical concerns from both Archaeology and Geography. The module engages the key challenge of carefully contextualising and historicising understandings of landscape, heritage and environment, and exploring urgent contemporary questions of landscape/environment sustainability, governmentality and management. The module will provide an introduction to the various ways in which human societies interact(ed) with their environment, and will be able to provide both chronological depth and thematically-specific case-study knowledge of key sites and spaces across the island of Ireland.

Key Learning Outcomes:

The course aims to promote

- the ability critically to read the rich diversity of landscape, culture and heritage across the island of Ireland and to understand its key historical contexts
- the proficiency to deconstruct the various political, cultural, economic and symbolic significances of a range of Irish urban and rural landscapes
- the capability to see landscape, memory and heritage as concepts which are fluid, politically and socially constructed and reproduced, and ultimately contested the capacity to interpret representations of historical and contemporary landscapes from a range of theoretically informed and multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Module: TI2102 - Introduction to GIS

Lecturer: Dr Oisín Callery

Module Objectives/Learning Outcome:

- Understand basic concepts in GIS
- Solve basic GIS application problems
- Acquire computer skills in GIS, including data collection, editing, database management, basic analysis, and map design
- Produce professional GIS maps
- Analyse geographical data using GIS

This course covers the basic concepts and applications of a geographic information system (GIS). The topics of GIS data concept, data modelling, attribute management, data input and analysis are explained. GIS software ArcGIS is selected as the main training software package for computer practical in this course. Students will have general knowledge of a GIS and acquire the basic techniques of GIS software to independently produce professional maps and carry out spatial queries and GIS analyses. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to independently complete a simple GIS project.

Lecture content

- Introduction: overview, definition
- Spatial data concept
- Spatial data modelling
- Attribute data management
- Data input
- Data analysis

Computer practical content

- Getting started; Interacting with data; Coordinates; Symbolizing; Classifying
- Labelling; Layout design; Table joining; Selecting; Editing; Querying; Analyzing; QGIS

Practical: 44 hours Computer practical (AC 216 GIS Lab, Arts/Science Building)
 Extra hours Tutorial (Optional, for students needing help for the assignments)
 4 hours (2h on Monday/Tuesday + 2h on Tuesday/Wednesday) per week
 Due to Covid-19 restrictions, students are separated into 3 groups.
 Sign-up sheet will available via Blackboard in Week 1.
 Mon 12-2, 2-4, Tues 10-12, 12-2, Wed 9-11, 11-13.
 Computer practical starts from Week 2.

Module: TI 252 - Theory and Practice 2 (compulsory)

Lecturer: Dr Kevin Lynch

The intention of this course is to develop students' understanding of the various traditions of doing geographical research and producing geographical knowledge. The course introduces students to both theory and practice in geography, focusing in particular on relationships between geographical concepts and the practices of geographical research. Geographical thought will be considered through lectures and assignments that examine the wide range of interconnected theoretical and methodological assumptions that underwrite analysis and evidence gathering in the discipline. In addition, the course aims to familiarise students with the different ways that geographers do research. Critical analysis of all approaches to geographical knowledge will be stressed. Particular emphasis is put on developing a critical understanding of what it means to do geography and make geographical claims.

Key Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students are expected:

- to gain an understanding of the history and practice of the discipline;
- to gain a critical understanding of the different theoretical and methodological approaches to all knowledge production in geography;
- to develop the ability to think critically about geography and what it means to 'do' geography.

Module: TI 236 - Environmental Planning: Principles & Processes

Lecturer: Dr Elaine Williams

Module Outline:

The primary aims of the module are: To introduce students to the principles of environmental planning. To present both conceptual and empirical information regarding the processes of environmental planning at a variety of spatial scales. To assess the range and application of practical tools developed for environmental planning. To provide students with opportunities to link theoretical principles with practical, topical and accessible case studies as they consider the impact of environmental planning on a number of sectors in an Irish context. To encourage students to gain a critical understanding of current environmental planning issues and the interrelationships between society, environment and planning.

Key Learning outcomes:

- Assess the role of environmental planning in policy making
- Explain and discuss the use of environmental planning tools
- Evaluate the impact of the processes and practices of environmental planning within various sectors in an Irish context
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the relationships between society, the environment and planning

- Demonstrate independent thinking and critically assess the relationship between human geography, society, and the environment
- Critically assess arguments from a variety of data sources, and produce an original piece of written work

Module: TI 235 - Biogeography

Lecturer: Dr Terry Morley

This class provides an introduction to the study of biogeography. Bridging the fields of biology (particularly ecology) and geography, biogeography is the study of the spatial patterns of biological diversity and its causes. We will identify how historical, physical, and biological factors affect present and past distributions of individuals, species, populations, communities, and ecosystems. The actions of humans are a critical force impacting other species, and the human influence on past, present, and future species distributions is a central topic in this module.

Key Learning Outcomes:

This course offers a survey of the basics of biogeography and introduces students to various methodologies used in biogeographic research. Hands-on field, lab, and data analysis exercises will allow students to put learned concepts into practice, and give students experience working with the techniques used by biogeographers. The following learning outcomes are expected upon completion of this course:

- To identify and differentiate the basic principles and theories of biogeography
 - Application of standard field methodologies and data analysis techniques used in biogeography to analyse and examine applied problems
 - To assess and evaluate human impacts on species distributions and apply modern conservation strategies to these issues
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Module: TI 2109 – Sustainable Planning in Marine Environments

Lecturer: Dr Liam M. Carr

Marine spatial planning is promoted as a means of managing multiple human uses of the marine environment in a more sustainable manner than other approaches. This module focuses on the historical importance and context of the marine sector in securing economic and cultural goods, critiquing various single- and multi-sector management regimes and policies. Using case studies both from Ireland and abroad, this module covers: social-ecological systems, the social construction of the marine environment, ocean governance and citizenship, drivers of marine spatial planning, ecosystem-based management, and the collaborative planning of marine resources.

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Identify formal and informal institutions which structure human uses of the marine environment
- Interrogate formal and informal institutions through the application of appropriate geographic theories and concepts to develop an informed and intellectually grounded critique
- Apply geographic theories and concepts to marine and coastal social-ecological systems
- Creatively analyse, synthesise and present results and conclusions effectively and comprehensively, both orally and in written form
- Contribute effectively to the existing body of geographical and environmental knowledge through discussion, reading interpretation and analyses, and formative writing

Module: TI 2108 Introduction to Palaeoclimatology

Lecturer: Dr Aaron Potito

This module introduces students to the field of palaeoclimatology (the study of past climates). Climate change is not a modern phenomenon, as Earth's systems are dynamic and rarely stable over extended periods of time. Climate variability occurs across multiple spatial and temporal scales, but we generally lack long enough scientific or historical records to directly measure most long-term patterns of climate change. Palaeoclimatology fills this void by offering evidence of environmental conditions across timescales, providing a broader context for studying modern environmental phenomena.

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of palaeoclimatology as it relates to modern environmental systems
- Critique the array of methodologies which are used in reconstructing past environments
- Assess long-term human-environment interactions through time
- Apply theoretical concepts in a real-world context through hands-on lab-based instruction

Transdisciplinary modules

Transdisciplinary modules will offer students something new in their university learning experience through innovative coursework. These modules will enhance students' professional skills, broaden their knowledge and offer a more holistic learning experience designed by experts from across the university, with input from our enterprise, as well as local community partners.

Students are allowed to choose **ONE Designing Futures transdisciplinary module per semester** (i.e., 2 per academic year). You should not sign up for more than one of our options in each semester.

Check out our all of our current modules, open to second and third year students from any discipline if approved by your programme, and check back for any new modules that will offer innovative and exciting ideas for the academic year 2024-25.

[\(https://www.universityofgalway.ie/designingfutures/personalisedstudentjourney/transdisciplinarymodules/forstudents/\)](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/designingfutures/personalisedstudentjourney/transdisciplinarymodules/forstudents/)

Semester 1

- **BSS2103 Introduction to Sustainability: Tuesday 9-11am** Venue: Alice Perry Building, CE342 (Module Co-ordinator: Gesche Kindermann, School of Natural Science)

Semester 2

- **AJ2114 Communicating Through Storytelling:** (venue & time TBC)
(Module Co-ordinator: TBC, Discipline of Journalism and Communication)

Module: BSS2103) Introduction to Sustainability 1 (semester 1)

Lecturer: Gesche Kindermann, School of Natural Sciences (gesche.kindermann@nuigalway.ie)

Climate is in crisis so what can we do? This module will help students understand and engage with the concept of sustainability and the [United Nations \(UN\) Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). You will learn about sustainability from multiple perspectives, with lecturers from 11 different disciplines as well as [University of Galway's sustainability officer](#). As a transdisciplinary module we will share tips on how we can all learn, live and lead sustainability at Galway University and beyond.

Module: (AJ2114) Communicating through Storytelling

Lecturer Discipline of Journalism and Communication

Writing well and professional communication capacities are now essential requirements for the working world and for social impact for social good. Examine storytelling as a communications tool. Develop your personal brand, learn how to respond, communicate clearly and manage reputation. Put learning into action via the development of storytelling and communication materials. This module will develop your understanding of communication giving you the capacity to weigh evidence, distil and prioritize information cogently, tell effective stories, make persuasive presentations and influence decisions.

**** Please note that any students who are considering applying for the Postgraduate Masters in Education, Geography can't guarantee the designing future modules will be accepted by the Teaching Council of Ireland. It is the responsibility of students to ensure they have enough geography specific modules completed ****