



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

School of Political Science & Sociology Second Year Handbook 2024-25

This booklet contains (almost) everything you need to know!
Please take time to read it and keep safely

Year 2 Coordinator: Dr Brian McGrath:

brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie

Aras Moyola, Room 322, School of Political Science & Sociology,
Newcastle Road, University of Galway.

Tel: 091-493405.

When emailing please state at the top of your email the course you are studying. Emails are normally answered within 24-48 hours. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, please feel free to send a follow-up email reminder. Note that emails sent after 4 pm on Friday evening will not be responded to over the weekend.

In this Guide

	<i>Page</i>
1. Welcome	3
2. Aims & Learning Objectives	4
3. Timetable	6
4. How Year 2 is Organised	8
4.1 Registration	9
4.2 Key Dates	9
4.3 Module Assessment	9
4.4 School Policies re submission of coursework	10
5. Teaching Details & Module Descriptions	12-21
6. How to get in touch	22
6.1 Other Communication Channels	23

Please Note:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the details contained in this booklet are accurate. The School reserves the right to make changes or correct errors as necessary. We will ensure that you are notified if/when a revised/updated version of the Handbook is available.

1. WELCOME

On behalf of the School of Political Science & Sociology, welcome to Year 2 of Sociological & Political Studies! We are very pleased you have chosen to continue your studies with us and sincerely hope that your second year will be an enjoyable, academically rewarding and enriching experience.

You can learn more about us as a School, including staff bios/research interests, postgraduate programmes and other events happening at the following website:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/soc/>

We look forward to you joining us in September.

Brian McGrath,
Year 2 Coordinator

2. AIMS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

In Second Year you will transition from the *Introduction to Sociological and Political Studies* to a more demanding range of material, including classical texts and their interpretations, and books and articles grounded in research on specific theoretical, conceptual and substantive issues. The principal aims of the second year programme are to extend your knowledge of theory, methodology and some of the major issues and debates in social and political studies.

The modules offered over both semesters are designed to build on the introduction to sociology and politics taught in the 1st year, and prepare you for more advanced study in 3rd year.

The Learning Objectives for you are:

- to acquire a more extensive knowledge of the principal theoretical foundations of social and political studies.
- to deepen your understanding of both classical and current social and political issues and of how these have been interpreted theoretically and conceptually.
- to gain knowledge and appreciation of methodological approaches to social and political research.
- to develop a range of critical, analytical and interpretative skills.
- to build study skills, including critical reading and comprehension, essay writing, discussion, presentations and exam preparation.
- to develop your capacity for independent thinking and scholarly work
- to enhance your general intellectual and personal skills in a manner which will benefit you professionally and across your life course.

2.1 BEING ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN LEARNING

- In this School we encourage *You* to take responsibility for your own learning. Remember, we cannot do your learning for you.
- You are obliged to attend all lectures and seminars and meet all deadlines as set out. While we share our knowledge and full support across the programme, your critical engagement with ideas, discussions, essay writing, lectures and seminars will make a huge difference to your university experience. We encourage you to take full advantage of what we offer.

- You are therefore expected to make full use of the Library and to develop your bibliographic skills. Please read from your reading lists and use books on desk reserve. Library staff will help you with any difficulties.
- In the event of any serious personal difficulties affecting your progress or participation, we encourage you to speak confidentially to the 2nd year Co-ordinator.
- Where a student has been assessed by the Disability Support Office and has been provided with a LENS report, you should inform your lecturer that there is a LENS report for you. You do not need to email any reports as attachments to any Lecturer.

2.2 Important General Information Points about Year 2 & Progression

- Second Year Results are now worth 30% of your overall degree result: you must therefore assume that your final degree class can be significantly affected by your second year performance.
- Second Year REPEAT students who did not submit seminar essays during the academic year and who have failed Semester I and Semester II *lecture-based* modules cannot submit Continuous Assessment work as part of their SECOND SITTING Examination. Their repeat performance will be assessed entirely by written examination. Therefore, only students with Deferrals may submit essays for the second examination sitting.
- NOTE ALSO THAT SINCE THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16, SECOND YEAR REPEAT EXAMINATION RESULTS ARE CAPPED AT 40%.

3. TIMETABLE: ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

In Semester 1: Your **Core module** is: SPSK3101 - Politics and Society: Themes and Topics (Core module); AND

Students choose TWO option modules: YOU MUST CHOOSE One module from Option 1 (SP2122 or SP235) and One from Option 2 (SP2116 or SP2117)

In Semester 2: Your **Core modules** are: SPSK3102 – Society & Politics: Ideas and Research (Core module); AND SP220 Research Methods; AND

Students choose ONE option module: YOU MUST CHOOSE SP212 or SP2123

Each Module is worth 5 Credits/ECTS

SEMESTER ONE

<p>All Joint Honours BA students MUST take the Core Module listed below</p>	<p>Students choose TWO option modules FROM BELOW: YOU MUST CHOOSE <u>One module from Option 1 and One from Option 2:</u></p>
<p>SPSK3101 - Politics and Society: Themes and Topics (Core module)</p> <p>Dr Brian McGrath – Module Coordinator (and Colleagues in the small group seminars) This Core module is taught entirely in weekly, small-group seminar classes which commence in Week 3 of Semester 1.</p>	<p>(Option 1): SP2122 - European Politics Dr Brendan Flynn Monday 12.00 (O’Flaherty); AND Monday 2.00 (O’Flaherty) OR SP235 - Social Issues and Policy Responses Dr Brian McGrath and Colleagues Tuesday 12.00 (Arts Millennium Building, AMB 1021); AND Wednesday 12.00 (AMB 1021)</p>
	<p>(Option 2): SP2116 - Sociology of Health Dr Vesna Malesevic and Colleagues Tuesday 2.00 (Arts Millennium Building, AMB 1021); AND Friday 12.00 (O’Flaherty) OR SP2117 - International and Global Politics Dr. Evans Fanoulis and Colleagues Tuesday 2.00 (AUC G002, Aras Ui Chathail); AND Friday 12.00 (Arts Millennium Building, AMB 1022)</p>

SEMESTER TWO

<p>All Joint Honours BA students register for the TWO Core Modules listed below:</p>	<p>Students must choose ONE option FROM BELOW: YOU MUST CHOOSE Either SP212 or SP2123</p>
<p>SPSK3102 - Society and Politics: Ideas and Research (Core module)</p> <p>Brian McGrath (and Colleagues in the small group seminars) This Core module is taught entirely in weekly, small-group seminar classes which commence in Week 3 of Semester 2.</p>	<p><u>(Option 1):</u></p> <p>SP212 - Classical Social Thought</p> <p>Dr Lisa Walshe and Colleagues Wednesday 12.00 (MRA 201, Ryan Institute); Friday 12.00 (IT250)</p>
<p>SP220 - Methods for Social & Political Science (Core module)</p> <p>Dr. Mike Hynes and Jacqueline Murphy Monday 2.00 (O’Flaherty); Tuesday 12.00 (O’Flaherty)</p>	<p><u>(Option 2):</u></p> <p>SP2123 Modern Political Thought</p> <p>Gerry Fitzpatrick Wednesday 12.00 (Arts Millennium Building, AMB 1021); Friday 12.00 (AMB 1021)</p>

4. How Second Year is Organised

In your second year with the School, you take three Core modules – SPSK3101, SPSK3102 and SP220 – and three Option choices:

i.e. 1 Core and 2 Options in Semester I; and 2 Core and 1 Option in Semester II.

Each semester you take 30 Credits/ECTS: Each Module is worth 5 Credits/ECTS.

In Year 2, unlike the first year experience with the School of Political Science and Sociology, students can - if they wish - choose to specialise in either more 'Political' or more 'Sociological' module choices. This innovative 'Pathway Specialisation' approach allows students to take advantage of the breadth and scope of the modules offered by the School, which cover most of the social and the political sciences. For example in Semester I if you prefer 'the social' to 'the political' side of the School's programme you could then choose to take SP235 (Social Issues) as Option 1 and SP2116 (Sociology of Health) as Option 2; and in Semester II, SP212 (Classical Social Thought) as your Option 3. In contrast, if your interests are more clearly 'political' you could then choose SP2122 (European Politics) as Option 1 and SP2117 (International and Global Politics) as your Option 2; in Semester II, you would then pick as your Option 3, SP2123 (Modern Political Thought).

However, these potential choices are merely indicative and discretionary: one of the School's strengths lies in the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary character of its staff and their modular offerings. Students therefore who wish to avoid a 'Pathway Specialisation' can of course choose to be more mixed in their choices and pick an individually chosen mixture of both the more 'social' and the more 'political' modules in their three Options. In other words, in all three Option choices, it is entirely up to you, *within the limitations imposed by necessary and unavoidable number capping restrictions*, to choose which module you prefer in each of your three possible Option selections. Therefore, *if you have strong preferences, you are advised to register for your preferred 'Pathway' as soon as possible*.

We hope to be able to satisfy the wishes of the vast majority of our students but unfortunately because of capping restrictions, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to enrol in all your preferred Option choices.

Most **Connect students** must choose between two possibilities: either to take TWO Options in Semester I and only Cores in Semester II; or ONE Option in Semester I and then also ONE Option in Semester II. Overall as a Connect you shall thus be taking THREE Core and TWO Option modules. **Major/Minor** students will consult their specific degree programme regulations to ascertain which module options are available to choose.

In relation to the seminar-based modules (SPSK3101 and SPSK3102), students in Semester I (SPSK3101) are divided into **four separate seminar streams, A, B, C and D** regarding which particular combination of module Options they have chosen - since the seminars are designed to amplify and underscore through innovative and participatory teaching the themes being covered in the modular lecture series. In semester II as there are only two possible variations (SP212 or SP2123), there is in effect only two streams.

4.1 Registration

You make your own choice from the available Options in each semester and register your choice with the Registration Office as part of your general college registration process. If you have any problems with registration, contact registration@universityofgalway.ie.

AND

You also have to register separately with the School for a weekly one-hour seminar that runs across the year. Details of the seminars will be available later in the separate seminar booklets. The small-group seminars begin on the week of **Monday September 23rd** and registration and details of how to register for them will be given via Canvas for SPSK3101. Please note that seminars are an **obligatory Core** modular requirement for most students with the exception of Visiting and Erasmus students - and some Major/Minors.

4.2 Key Dates

- Regular lecture-times are in place from **Monday 9th September 2024**.
- Small group Seminars start the week of **Monday September 23rd** and end **November 29th** (nine weeks).
- In **week 6** (October 14th – 18th) there will be a **READING WEEK** with no seminars or lectures scheduled.
- Revision week from Monday December 2nd
- Exams from Monday December 9th to Friday December 20th
- **IN SEMESTER 2, LECTURES BEGIN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER on January 13th AND End April 4th. Reading Week is Week 6 (17-21 February)**
- Semester 2 **SMALL-GROUP SEMINARS BEGIN Week 3 - Commencing January 27th until Week-Ending April 4th**

4.3 Module Assessment

All lecture-based modules are assessed through: (a) exam, (70%); (b) a written essay (30%). The two core seminar-based modules are assessed entirely through a variety of coursework and continuous assessment methods. **You are required to pass all modules in Year 2 in order to progress into Year 3 and an overall mark of 40% is required to pass each module.**

Lecture/Seminar Attendance

Your responsibility as a student is to attend all lectures and seminars. Lectures are an integral part of the learning process. The seminars are specially designed to deepen your learning and knowledge and are also an integral part of the learning process. Our

experience ascertains at least one fact: students who attend lectures and seminars consistently perform better than those who don't!

4.4 School Policies regarding the submission of Coursework

Written Assignments are submitted directly to the Turnitin originality checking service. Turnitin generates an 'Originality Report' which identifies unoriginal submitted material. The originality report is available to Canvas teachers via the Turnitin Reports course tool. To learn more about Turnitin, see the following link:

<https://tips.universityofgalway.ie/m/turnitin/1/1094917-what-is-turnitin>

Feedback timeframe policy: Normally, assignments will be marked 3 weeks from the submission deadline.

Late submission policy:

- **Refers** to the submission of written assignment by the student without extension request and/or extension request approval
- Material is marked **up to 10 working days late submission**
- **No work is accepted or marked after 10 days** submission after deadline
- **Penalty per 1 working day late submission is 2%/2 points off the mark originally awarded** (e.g. if the essay merits a mark of 68%, with penalty applied, the mark would go down to 66%)

Extension policy: Any Extension request must be based upon a Medical Cert. or supporting relevant documentation. The minimum limit is 1 working day late, the maximum limit is 7 working days (excluding Study Week and the exams period, excepting the very last day of the examinations). If you require an extension to any coursework (essays, critical comments, etc) you should in the first instance discuss with your Seminar Leader.

- The maximum limit is 7 working days
- Extensions are granted within the period of Monday 9am – Friday 23.59 hours only

Extenuating Circumstances policy applies to students who require an extension of more than 7 days or require an alternative accommodation in which case you seek an extension from the College Office: See the following document:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registry/exams/policiesprocedures/QA209-Extenuating-Circumstances.pdf>

Academic Integrity Policy

As the Policy states, 'Academic misconduct is any attempt to gain or help others gain an unfair academic advantage'. This can be 'intentional or inadvertent', and can be committed in a variety of ways (University of Galway 2022).

The following examples of academic misconduct are quoted from the University Policy (please note that this is not an exhaustive list):

- ‘Submitting work as your own for assessment, which has, in fact, been done in whole or in part by someone else’.
- ‘Cheating in exams (e.g., crib notes, copying, using disallowed tools, impersonation)’.
- ‘Cheating in projects (e.g., collusion; using ‘essay mills’ to carry out the allocated part of the project)’.
- ‘Self-plagiarism where you submit work which has previously been submitted for a different assignment without permission/acknowledgement’.
- ‘Posting advertisements for services which encourage contract cheating either physically or virtually’.
- ‘Submitting all or part of an assessment item which has been produced using artificial intelligence (e.g. Google Translate or other machine translation services/software, AI essay writing service etc.) and claiming it as your own work.’

Source:

University of Galway (2022) ‘QA220 Academic Integrity Policy’, available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registrar/docs/QA220-Academic-Integrity-Policy-Final.pdf>

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the details contained in this module outline are accurate at the time of publication. The School reserves the right to make changes or correct errors as necessary and, in this event, we will ensure that you are notified, and changes amended into the latest version of the outline.

Categorical Marking Scheme:

These categorical marks are applied only at the level of assessed components (and NOT overall modular marks) to foster consistency across the programme and achieve a better distribution of marks across degree grades.

<i>Fail:</i>	0, 25, 35
<i>Pass:</i>	42, 45, 48
<i>Lower Second:</i>	52, 55, 58
<i>Upper Second:</i>	62, 65, 68
<i>First:</i>	72, 75, 78

How to Access Your Feedback:

Feedback from your lecturer/seminar leader is provided through Canvas. Here is a very useful link to how you can view this:

<https://tips.universityofgalway.ie/m/turnitin/1/1737090-access-your-turnitin-feedback-on-canvas>

5. TEACHING & MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

In 2BA1, you take 3 core & 3 option modules: ONE core and TWO options in Semester I; and TWO cores and ONE option in Semester II. You will experience large and small group teaching as you did in Year 1.

Lecture modules involve large group teaching comprising approximately 180 students. **In Semesters 1 and 2, you will attend what we describe as the ‘Seminar modules’ (SPSK3101 and SPSK3102)** which involve small group teaching of approximately 12-20 students and involve one hour per week for a specified number of weeks.

The Seminar modules support and extend the learning in the other modules. The format involves small numbers of students meeting weekly, to encourage group discussion and debate around selected themes and individual and group-work exercises. They are designed specifically to help you develop your critical thinking and presentation skills. You will have a Seminar Leader who is a member of staff in the School, who will guide and facilitate your learning throughout this semester once you sign up for your group. The overall Module Coordinator is Dr Brian McGrath.

SEMINARS COMMENCE IN Week 3 (23rd September) AND RUN FOR 10 WEEKS. There are no full group lectures for this module. You will have a specific hard copy Reader/Reading Pack for this module which you need to purchase. It includes a range of selected readings and specific discussion topic questions and activities for each week of your chosen seminar group stream. You must bring your Reading Packs to your seminar classes. To maximise your learning experience you need to read the assigned material in advance of your weekly discussion topic.

How do seminars work? Prior to the seminars starting you will be given a **Seminar Guide**, detailing the discussion/essay and classwork themes. There will also be **READING PACKS/GUIDE made available** (with a selection of extracts from the recommended literature for each module) at the beginning of each semester. This Guide contains every bit of information you need to know about the seminars. The Reading Pack/Guide contains a set of assigned readings which shape discussion for six weeks of your seminars and are connected to the modular content of your two chosen lecture-based modules. Each seminar will be as good as you make it. Seminars are NOT lectures: the more you put in, the more you will get out.

5.2 MODULE ASSESSMENT

Of the 100% mark for each lecture-based module, the assessment is based on 70% from the exam and 30% from your essay. The two core seminar-based modules are graded at 100% from the various types of continuous assessment.

You are obliged to produce two essays per semester – one for each lecture-based module. Please note your seminar leader is happy to assist you with any difficulties you are having in relation to course work and essay writing. NOTE, TOO, ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA TURNITIN (AS IN 1st YEAR). FULL DETAILS RE THIS WILL BE FURNISHED TO YOU VIA E-MAIL

5.3 MODULE DESCRIPTIONS: SEMESTER 1 AND SEMESTER 2

Below are short module descriptions, giving a brief overview of module contents and methods of assessment. Full course outlines will be available on the Canvas Pages for each module.

Module Descriptions: Semester 1

CORE Module:

SPSK3101 - Politics and Society: Themes and Topics

Module Coordinator: Dr Brian McGrath (staff members will be your Seminar Leaders)

Using a small class format of teaching and learning, this is an interdisciplinary module that enables you to engage in a more in-depth way with key ideas and themes that shape our understanding and experience of social issues and the exercise of power and politics in contemporary societies. Based on the other modules you are studying this year, your seminars will cover a selection of relevant topics and themes related to those modules. Depending on your study choices, this will include, for example, the sources and consequences of inequality; improving child protection policy; understanding the social dimensions of health and healthcare systems; international issues relating to war and peace; European politics; responding to migration and refugee ‘crises’ or emerging challenges to democratic forms of government including new forms of populism.

In addition to gaining understanding of important social and political questions and issues covered in the Second Year curriculum, an overarching objective of this module is to provide structured opportunities for you to develop and strengthen a range of transferable skills, from the ability to undertake *critical reading*, *summary*, *synthesis* and *properly referenced academic writing*, to *group work* and *presentation* skills.

Prerequisites: None

Min./max. no. of students: The class is split into small groups (15 to 20) for seminars

Seminar Tutor: Staff Member

Teaching and learning methods: Each week various continuous assessment exercises shall be engaged upon and/or readings related to the relevant lecture modules discussed.

Methods of assessment: These seminar-based modules are assessed entirely on the basis of attendance /participation and various Continuous Assessment exercises.

Languages of instruction: English Core texts: Assigned readings and exercises.

Note: Students may remain in the same seminar group for both semesters unless there is a to change for option-choice reasons.

You choose from ONE of the following two modules in Option 1.

EITHER: SP2122 OR SP235

SP2122 - European Politics

Lecturer: Dr Brendan Flynn

This module explores European politics through a broadly comparative perspective. It first addresses the strategic developments of the last decade and beyond, starting with the end of the cold war in the early 1990s, and the new security frameworks emerging today. We then discuss European nationalism, examining this issue in the context of Spain and the collapse of Yugoslavia. This is followed by lectures on the wider significance of German re-unification. In the second part of the course, we will use a regional framework of analysis. Here we will examine the Nordic democracies, the Mediterranean states, the newly established and struggling democracies of central Europe and the smaller European democracies such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, and Austria. Finally in the last section of the course we will examine some comparative trends: European electoral behaviour, Europe's various distinctive styles of governance, and the rise of political extremist movements across Europe in the last few years.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures. Students must take part in the semester 1 general seminars as described below.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings

OR

SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses

Lecturers: Dr Brian McGrath & Colleagues.

For students of Sociology and Politics, a particularly relevant field of study concerns people's welfare and wellbeing; and the purpose and role of social policy in addressing complex issues. Drawing on the School's strengths in its research and teaching programmes concerning welfare, policy analysis and professional/activist work, the purpose of this module is to introduce and examine a *selective* range of contemporary issues relating to: gender and equality, families and their support, children and their protection and rights. It is concerned with the effect of policies, particularly on more vulnerable groups in society. It provides a range of perspectives from important social policy fields of: social work; family support; social/political activism/advocacy; and community based approaches. The policy responses to the welfare issues we explore reflect distinctive approaches but similar principles, grounded in equality, human rights and social justice. This module is structured around three core themes:

- Introduction to Policy and Concepts
- Gender, Equality, Rights and Policy
- Family Support & Policy and Children's Rights, Child Protection & Policy

Reading: Core readings for each week will be identified and additional readings will be listed.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings for each week.

You choose from ONE of the following two modules in Option 2.

EITHER: SP2116 OR SP2117

SP2116 Sociology of Health

Lecturer: Dr Vesna Malesevic

In this module students will engage in sociological understanding of health and illness with emphasis on the social/political/economic/cultural factors that affect conceptualisation and lived-out experience of health and illness. Study of health and illness will cover the individual, societal and institutional levels with particular exploration of intersections between health, gender, sexuality, religion, and human rights.

Essential books:

Annandale, E. (2014). *The Sociology of Health and Medicine*, Polity [ISBN: 9780745634623]

Nettleton, S. (2021). *The Sociology of Health and Illness*, Polity [ISBN: 9781509512744]

Reading:

The module is built around a series of core texts, with additional readings for essay / exam preparation (see course outline and reading list).

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Languages of instruction: English

OR

SP2117 International and Global Politics

Lecturer: Dr Evans Fanoulis and Colleagues

The module aims at introducing you to the world of concepts, actors, events and theoretical approaches of international and global politics, with a primary focus on questions of peace, war, security and conflict. By the end of the semester, you will understand key concepts such as the nation-state and the international system as well as the main theoretical schools in international relations such as realism, liberalism and constructivism. You will be able to understand the role of international and regional organisations in the context of multilateral diplomacy. It also considers the role of non-

state actors such as NGOs like Amnesty International or Greenpeace, and multinational corporations.

Reading:

Main Texts:

The Hardiman Library has been notified to make all the texts below available:

Burchill, S. et al., eds (most recent edition), *Theories of International Relations*, New York: Palgrave.

Baylis, J. et al., eds (most recent edition), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dunne, T. et al., eds (most recent edition), *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Edkins, J. and Zehfuss, M., eds (most recent edition), *Global Politics: A New Introduction*, London: Routledge.

Kaarbo, J. and Ray, J. (most recent edition) *Global Politics*, Boston, MA: Cengage Learning

Assessment

This module is assessed by final exam (70%) and essay (30%).

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and Learning Method: Lectures

Method of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Language of instruction: English

Module Descriptions – Semester 2

CORE Module

SPSK3102: Society and Politics : Ideas and Research

Module Coordinator: Dr Brian McGrath (staff members will be your Seminar Leaders)

This module aims to enhance the capacity of students to think critically about society and politics; to formulate research questions; and to identify appropriate ways or methods to conduct research and gather the evidence necessary to begin to answer different types of research queries. It also aims to build students' knowledge and confidence in discussing the 'big ideas' of key thinkers in social and/or political theory (e.g., liberty, justice, class conflict, equality, solidarity, rationality, etc.) and to draw on these ideas when thinking about research topics. Informed by these discussions, students further examine how knowledge about social and political life is constructed, including through formulating questions and designing and conducting ethical research that can answer such questions. This student-centred module is organised around the completion of critical thinking and research tasks. Tasks can include the following: close reading, synthesis, and discussion of significant ideas in social and political thought; group work exercises to define a research question and plan; practice research methods (using surveys, interviews, statistics, archival materials); and conduct data analysis and peer reviews. Working in small groups students shall develop deepened skills of critical analysis as they scrutinise taken-for-granted assumptions about society and politics and develop and practise a range of widely used social research skills.

AND

CORE Module

SP220 Methods for Social and Political Science

Lecturers: Dr Mike Hynes and Jacqueline Murphy

Course Description:

This course aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of social science research. The course starts by providing an overview of the key principles of social research and qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches. Students will learn how to design a research study and develop a research proposal.

The module introduces four specific research methods – surveys/questionnaires, qualitative interviews, focus groups and ethnography/participant observation. Students will learn about good practice in undertaking each method and the benefits and challenges associated with each approach. Participants also will be introduced to techniques for qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Methods of sampling (i.e. choosing participants to participate in research) and the ethical issues arising in social and political research are also explored.

Learning outcomes:

After successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- Understand key social research terms and concepts

- Appreciate the merits and challenges associated with qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method studies
- Describe the main features of four key research methods used by social and political scientists
- Develop a proposal for a small-scale research study
- Undertake a basic analysis of qualitative or quantitative data
- Identify ethical issues that may arise in social research and the responsibilities of researchers in this regard.

Methods of assessment and examination: Five brief mid-term MCQs (30%), and a two-hour end-of-semester exam (70%). Students will develop a Research Proposal as part of the SPSK3102 module, which will complement their learning in this module.

Languages of instruction: English

Core text: Sheppard, Valerie (2020). *Research Methods for the Social Sciences: An Introduction*. Vancouver: BCCampus. licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted.

In Semester 2 you will also choose ONE of the following TWO OPTIONS.

EITHER: SP212 or SP2123

SP212 Classical Social Thought

Lecturer: Lisa Walsh and Colleagues

This module provides a broad introduction to classic ideas and debates in the development of sociology and social thought. The writings of Karl Marx (1818-1883), Émile Durkheim (1858-1917) and Max Weber (1864-1920) feature prominently. Each of these thinkers reflects a particular approach or tradition in the study of society. Their ideas have contributed substantially to our understanding of the evolution and the shape of modern societies, including how power operates and how resources are distributed within and across the different parts of society. This module also explores key contributions to social theory with regard to race and gender by important precursors or contemporaries of Marx, Durkheim and Weber, including Harriet Martineau, Frederick Douglass, Jane Addams, Anna J. Cooper, W.E.B. Dubois, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Ida Wells-Barnet.

Textbooks and General Reading:

Allan, K (2013) *Explorations in classical sociological theory: seeing the social world*. 3rd ed. Los Angeles, SAGE.

Craib, I (2011) *Classical social theory: an introduction to the thought of Marx, Weber, Durkheim and Simmel*. Reprint, Oxford: OUP (NUIG Library 301.01 CRA)

Lemert, C (ed.) (2017) *Social theory: the multicultural, global and classical readings*, 6th edn.

Lengermann, P.M. and Niebrugge, G. eds. (1998) *The women founders of sociology and social theory 1830-1930: a text reader*. Long Grove, ILL: Waveland Press Inc. ISBN-10:1-57766-509-0/ISBN-13:978-1-5766-509-0

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures. Students (with the exception of Visiting/Erasmus students) must take part in the semester 2 general seminars as described in this booklet.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted through the small-group seminars as described in this booklet.

Languages of instruction: English

OR

SP2123 - Modern Political Thought

Lecturer: Gerry Fitzpatrick

This module is an introduction to European modern political thought through some of its principal thinkers. It traces the development of thinking about power, politics and the State from the Renaissance to the beginning of the 20th Century. Its aim is to help you to understand the nature of the history of political thought and how it has shaped and is shaping the modern world. The major themes are political obligation - why and how should we obey the State; and the emergence of the sovereign integrated nation-state as the paradigm polity of political modernity. The main approaches to these questions that we will consider are Renaissance humanism, Social Contractarianism, Utilitarianism, Idealism, Republicanism and democratic Nationalism. The writers covered shall run from Thomas More (early 16th Century) to Max Weber and LT Hobhouse (early 20th Century). The idea throughout is to examine both the historical context and intentions of all the thinkers analysed - and to assess what they have to say to us about our current political predicaments.

Textbooks and General Reading

Six good general textbooks for this course are

A Ryan, *On Politics, A History of political Thought* (2012) chs 9-21

I. Hampsher-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought* (1992)

A. Haworth, *Understanding the Political Philosophers* (2004) chs 5-8, 11

D Wootton, *Modern Political Thought, Readings from Machiavelli to Nietzsche* (2008)

J.S. McClelland, *A History of Western Political Thought* (1996) Parts IV to VI

J. Plamenatz, *Man and Society* Vols I and II of the revised (1992) edition

Other texts to be announced.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures. Students (with the exception of Visiting/Erasmus students) must take part in the semester 2 general seminars as described in this booklet.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted through the small-group seminars as described in this booklet.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings/textbook chapters

Languages of instruction: English

6. How to get in touch

Second Year Co-ordinator: Dr Brian McGrath

(brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie)

Room 322, 2nd Floor, Áras Moyola

When emailing please state at the top of your email the course you are studying. Emails are normally answered within 24-48 hours. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, please feel free to send a follow-up email reminder. Note that emails sent after 4 pm on Friday evening will not be responded to over the weekend.

Head of School

Professor Michelle Millar

Áras Moyola

email: michelle.millar@universityofgalway.ie

Deputy Head of School and Academic Director of Undergraduate Studies

Vesna Malešević

Room 324, Áras Moyola

email: vesna.malesevic@universityofgalway.ie

School Administrator:

Stephanie Quinn

Room 308, Áras Moyola

email: stephanie.quinn@universityofgalway.ie

Module Coordinators and Lecturers:

Brian McGrath - SPSK3101 & SPSK3102 Seminar-based Modules Coordinator:

email: brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie

Brian McGrath – SP235

email: brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie

Brendan Flynn – SP2122

Room 316, Áras Moyola

email: brendan.flynn@universityofgalway.ie

Vesna Malešević – SP2116

Room 324, Áras Moyola

email: vesna.malesevic@universityofgalway.ie

Gerry Fitzpatrick – SP2123
Room 327 Aras Moyola
email: gerard.fitzpatrick@universityofgalway.ie

Mike Hynes – SP220
Room 323, Áras Moyola
email: mike.hynes@universityofgalway.ie

Jacqueline Murphy – SP220
Room 304, Áras Moyola
email: jacqueline.murphy@universityofgalway.ie

Lisa Walshe – SP212
Room 317, Áras Moyola
email: lisa.walshe@universityofgalway.ie

Alexander Stingl – SP212
Room 312 Áras Moyola
email: alexander.stingl@universityofgalway.ie

Sarah Jenkins – SP2117
Room 310 Aras Moyola
email: sarah.jenkins@universityofgalway.ie

Evans Fanoulis - SP2117
Room 305 Aras Moyola
email: evans.fanoulis@universityofgalway.ie

6.2 OTHER COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please note that there is a great deal of information available on the School's website, including timetables, course outlines, contact details and online materials:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/political-science-and-sociology/>

NOTICEBOARD

Information for 2nd year students regarding seminar group allocation, timetabling issues, etc. will be posted on the 2nd year CANVAS site of SPSK3101/2 and on the 2nd Year Notice Board at the School of Political Science & Sociology, Floor 2, Aras Moyola at the beginning of each semester.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Students are urged to volunteer to become 2nd-year representatives, which is an important and responsible position. Students are invited to contact their representatives and/or the Year Coordinator if they have any concerns or wish to raise any issues regarding the School. The student representatives will meet with the Year Coordinator

approximately twice in the year (or more if needed) to discuss any student related issues.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

We ask students to complete student feedback forms in person (in the lecture) at end of each semester, and this feedback is undertaken over weeks 10-12. It is important for lecturers to get your views about how well you have experienced and engaged with the modules, so we encourage you to provide your considered feedback at these points.

CANVAS

Please note that from time to time the School will need to circulate information to all 2BA students and will use lectures and Canvas for this purposes. Please make sure you attend to any notices that circulate via Canvas. **DO NOT IGNORE THEM!**

---END