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UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

**BA Government:
(Politics, Economics and Law)**

Student Handbook 2024/2025

Updated 21 Aug 2024

Please Note:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the details contained in this guide are accurate at the time of publication. The Schools reserve 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 guide.

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Welcome

I would like to welcome all new BA Government (Politics, Economics and Law) undergraduates and returning students to University of Galway for the 2024/25 academic year.

I hope that you will all enjoy your course in Government, as well as the cultural and social activities that University of Galway and the city of Galway have to offer. I encourage you to take part in as many of the activities of the University as possible. Join [clubs](#) and [societies](#) and take part in activities; it is by doing this that you can really connect with the University experience and make the most of your time here. Learn about the [Community Knowledge Initiative](#) and find out about the various [volunteering opportunities](#) available to you.

Most of the teaching takes place in-person, on campus. Attend all your lectures and seminars and take part actively. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with staff with any specific questions that may arise. There are [support staff](#) to assist you, and as the BA Government Programme Director, I will be available to advise and support you. This handbook gives you the key information about your course. Please read pages 1-10, and the information concerning your year of study, carefully.

As Programme Director, I will take overall responsibility for the running of the programme. My office hours are on Thursdays 3-5pm, please do not hesitate to call in (room 224, Áras Moyola). I am also contactable by e-mail at hanna-kaisa.hoppania@universityofgalway.ie. My colleagues Dr. Aidan Kane from the Discipline of Economics is your liaison for this subject, and Dr Illan Wall from the School of Law for this discipline.

Best of luck in academic year 24/25!

Hanna-Kaisa Hoppania
Programme Director, BA Government (Politics, Economics and Law)
Lecturer in Government and Public Policy, School of Political Science and Sociology
University of Galway

Structure of the Programme

The BA Government programme takes four years to complete, and combines three core disciplines: politics, economics, and law. In the first year, you will take an equal number of modules in each of the three disciplines (politics 20 ECTS, economics 20 ECTS, law 20 ECTS). From the second year onwards, you will select one of the disciplines to *major* in, and the other two core subjects will be your *minors*. You will take 30 ECTS for a major in years 2 and 4, and 15 ECTS for each minor. The third year of the course will consist of either a Work Placement, Study Abroad, or a Research Project, and Complementary Study Options.

Year	Politics	Economics	Law	Total ECTS
Year 1	20 ECTS	20 ECTS	20 ECTS	60 ECTS

Year	Major Subject (your choice)	Minor Subject 1	Minor Subject 2	Total ECTS
Year 2	30 ECTS	15 ECTS	15 ECTS	60 ECTS
Year 3	Work Placement, Study Abroad and Complementary Study Options			60 ECTS
Year 4	30 ECTS	15 ECTS	15 ECTS	60 ECTS

Semester Dates

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

* To be confirmed
Approved AC Standing Dec 2020

See: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registry/academic-term-dates/>

Contact Details

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR & POLITICS COORDINATOR

Hanna-Kaisa Hoppania
School of Political Science & Sociology
Office 224, Áras Moyola
Ext. 2281
hanna-kaisa.hoppania@universityofgalway.ie

ECONOMICS COORDINATOR

Aidan Kane
School of Economics
Room 206, First Floor, St. Anthony's.
Ext. 2530
aidan.kane@universityofgalway.ie

LAW COORDINATOR

Illan Wall
School of Law
Room 101
Irish Centre for Human Rights
University Road
illan.wall@universityofgalway.ie

University of Galway Campus Map

You can find the Campus maps and Interactive Campus Map [here](#).



The School of Political Science and Sociology is located in Áras Moyola (no 33 on the map), the School of Economics is located in St. Anthony's (by the Cairnes building, no. 35), and the School of Law is in Tower 2 in the Arts Concourse (no. 21).

Advice and Resources

This section sets out some advice and basic resources available to you in order to successfully complete your studies at University of Galway.

Information relating to modules

Information relating to modules will be communicated through Canvas. Your lecturers will be in regular contact with you, and it is your responsibility to check your University of Galway email account and the modules you are registered for on Canvas for updates

Skills

In a competitive job market, it is in your own best interests to treat your time at university in a professional way. Passing examinations, although important, should not be your only goal. Your time at university is an opportunity for you to acquire as many useful skills as possible. Many of these skills (e.g., research skills, project management, time management, learning to provide public presentations, writing and communication skills, and data analysis) are called “transferable skills” and are becoming increasingly important for graduates.

Learning Needs Assessment (LENS)

Students with a disability are entitled, under law, to reasonable accommodations to enable them to participate on more equal terms with their peers. Supports and reasonable accommodations are determined through an individual needs assessment, taking into account the nature and impact of the disability, evidence of disability, and course requirements. Below is a list of the most recommended reasonable accommodations. This list is not exhaustive, and it is important to note that not all students will be eligible for all accommodations.

- Advice, Support and Advocacy
- Exam Accommodations
- In-class Accommodations
- Learning /Skills Support
- Assistive Technology
- Placement Support
- Other Specialised Supports

Incoming first-year students are welcome to register for disability support. We recommend you do so as soon as possible after starting your course or receiving a diagnosis. Please note: Registration with the Disability Support Service (DSS) is a separate process to registering as a student in the University of Galway.

Students with evidence of a disability, ongoing physical or mental health condition, or a specific learning difficulty can register with the DSS. You only need to register with the DSS once and this remains in place for the duration of your course. For more information please see: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/disability/>

Assessments

The assessments will vary from module to module but will generally consist of a combination of essays and other written assignments, in-class tests, and written examinations. In all cases, the material that will be assessed will be covered in the lectures, seminars, and required readings for each module. You will be provided with the relevant assessment details in your first lecture for each module.

For continuous assessment, feedback and marks will be returned 3 weeks from the submission deadline.

Consultation day is organised by the University after 1st sitting results release. It gives an opportunity to the students to seek informal recheck of their submitted work and the mark achieved. It is a requirement of the University to go through informal recheck first before proceeding with an Appeal.

The Examinations Office has a procedure for dealing with queries relating to marks awarded for modules:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registry/exams/policiesprocedures/QA235---Procedure-for-the-Discussion-Checking-and-Appeal-of-Examination-Rresults---Feb-2021.pdf>

For information on repeats please see the Examinations Office webpage:

https://www.universityofgalway.ie/exams/timetable-advice/examinations_faqs/repeats_faq/

Lecture notes, attendance and critical thinking

Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars as far as possible. Should a student be absent for an extended period for medical reasons, the relevant lecturer(s) should be informed as soon as possible and a medical certificate provided.

Many lecturers provide their notes on Canvas but it is not required that they do so. Each lecturer differs in how and when they prefer to make such material available. Some will only make notes available at the end of their period of teaching. Others prefer brief 'bullet point' notes, while a few may place more detailed notes online. The best way to understand and learn the course material is to go to the lectures, ask questions, take your own notes, and read the course assignments.

Please remember that this is NOT post primary education and we are not testing people's ability to learn off vast chunks of 'fact' by heart. Also, there is no need to meticulously record and subsequently reproduce every detail raised by the lecturer - this is not what lectures are about. We are instead interested in debate, argument and original thinking. The goal of lectures is to expose students to new perspectives. Listen actively, focus on the main points and to keep thinking about the issues as lecturers present their material. We place much more emphasis on the assigned readings, and above all, in critical thinking and engagement with this subject through lectures, tutorials, and essays. Rote learning of lecture notes is the wrong

way to engage with a subject. It follows that maximum feasible attendance of lectures and tutorials is the best policy you should adopt.

Academic Writing

[The Academic Writing Centre](#) (located in the library) provides one-on-one tutorials and email consultations on essay writing. They also support student writing through workshops, modules, and competitions.

Academic Integrity Policy

Learn about academic integrity [here](#).

The University of Galway QA220 Academic Integrity Policy sets out the code of practice for dealing with instances where students breach academic integrity by engaging in academic misconduct. The policy is available [here](#).

Deadlines, extensions & deferrals

If for good reason you cannot make a deadline for an assignment, you can seek an extension from your lecturer or seminar leader. Exceptions include valid medical or personal reasons in which case you should contact your lecturer or seminar leader. A new deadline will be arranged. Submitting coursework late without an extension or a deferral, may be subject to penalty.

The University deferral procedures are outlined in this document:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registry/exams/policiesprocedures/QA234---Deferral-of-Examinations---A-guide-for-students.pdf>

Exam preparation

Revision/Preparing for Exams

Revision is best where it is realistic, planned and focused. Do not try to adopt the approach of merely learning off textbooks or lecture notes for topics that you guess will come up. How to revise? There is no one answer, but setting aside clear time periods, like a day or afternoon for certain topics is a good start. Another tip is to synthesize the material from your personal lecture notes, the lecturer's notes, and the course readings. Building your own set of clear and succinct 'master notes' which embrace all these sources will force you to really get to know the topic and above all understand it. Revision is about reflecting on possible arguments, lines of debate, and picking out the most important factual details. Cramming the night before can never do that. It is sometimes helpful to revise as part of a study group, but ensure that it is with people who do not merely end up making you more anxious about any exam than you need to be.

Past Papers

Past papers can be found at the University of Galway website at https://regexam.nuigalway.ie/regexam/paper_index_search_main_menu.asp. Please note that while the format of exams each year can change, the types of questions set will usually not be that radically different from previous years. So, previous years' papers would give you an idea of the type of questions that could be set.

Exam Hall & timetable

Exams are organised centrally by the Examinations office. Make sure, well in advance, that you know when and where your exam will be held. For more information on the policies and processes, see the [Examinations Office](#) website.

Managing the Exam Paper

Read all the questions, taking care to think about what is really being asked. Decide which questions are best for you, or that you feel most able for. Then analyse that question. What is the assessor really trying to get at? It is advisable before you start writing, to use the first page of your answer book as a rough work jotter, and to scribble down a few notes, key words, or a mind map of themes and ideas that come into your head. Make sure to allocate equal time to each question and always attempt the number of questions required.

Exam Support

If you need extra support to do the exam you can apply to sit in the 'sick bay' for your examinations. You should contact the [Examinations Office](#) for more details. Lecturers will visit your exam venue during the exam period to check for possible mistakes in the paper. You should feel free to clarify examination material with them. Students with a physical or learning disability should make contact with the disability support services (see below).

Exam policies and procedures can be found [here](#).

Your Queries and Problems: Where to Go for Help

Do not let problems get out of hand before you seek help.

There are a number of people you can turn to for help at any stage during this BA course. If you have a specific question about a module or a seminar, you should contact the *lecturer* or *seminar leader* at the end of the class, or see them during their office hours, or email them. All lecturers will have designated office hours when students can reach them in their office to follow up on *academic* problems. If you are encountering other issues, such as health issues, personal or financial problems at any time during your time at University of Galway, there are a number of support services available:

Student Enquiry Centre

For any enquiries about student life, services and supports for students, contact the [Student Enquiry Centre](#), they are located on the first floor the Arts/Science Concourse from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Email: SEC@universityofgalway.ie

You can also use [Cara](#), the virtual assistant for current University of Galway students. Available 24/7/365 to support you with questions about day-to-day university life. Cara is a virtual extension of the Student Enquiry Centre focused on supporting you. <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/cara/>

The Students Union (SU) and Class Reps

Learn about your Student Union and The Class Reps [here](#).

University Counsellors

[Student Counselling](#) provides a free hybrid service of in-person and online one-to-one counselling. They also provide group counselling and workshops. For appointments and enquiries, email counselling@universityofgalway.ie or phone 091 492484.

Disability Support Service

[The Disability Support Service](#) (DSS) is available to University of Galway students who need supports or reasonable accommodations due to the impact of a disability, ongoing physical or mental health condition, or a specific learning difficulty.

University Chaplains

Chaplaincy is for students of all faiths and no faith. See <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/chaplains/>

Student Health Unit

[The Student Health Unit](#) provides on-campus medical care to full-time registered students.

Communication: Coordinators, Student Representatives

If there is some aspect of the BA course organisation that you are unclear about, or if you face academic difficulties, you should contact your **programme director or subject coordinator**. Good lines of communication, both between staff and students, and among students themselves, are important for the smooth running of any degree programme and in maintaining high student morale.

The Programme Director and the subject coordinators will communicate important information to you via Canvas or email. In addition, we have a notice board located in the entrance of the School of Political Science and Sociology, Floor 2, Áras Moyola.

If you have any trouble contacting staff then you should discuss this with your Programme Director. You should contact me as soon as possible, if you have any academic problems or any queries concerning the course. Remember that communication works both ways. The Course Director and subject Coordinators may need to get in touch with you at certain times of the year to pass on important messages or information. Therefore, at the beginning of the year, you will be asked to fill in a registration form with your contact details. You should ensure that these details are always up-to-date on the Student Registration Portal.

Within the first few weeks of each academic year you will be asked to elect a **student representative** (one representative from each undergraduate year). Regular scheduled student/staff meetings will be held throughout the academic year, allowing you to make comments on any aspect of the course through your representative.

First Year Information

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Core/Optional
LW3160	Introduction to Law	5	1	Core
LW126	Legal Skills	5	2	Core
LW3109	Tort Law	10	1 and 2	Core
SP1125	Introduction to Politics	5	1	Core
SP1124	Introduction to Government	5	2	Core
SP1127	Practicing Government	5	2	Core
SP1120	Practicing Politics	5	1	Core
EC135	Principles of Microeconomics	5	1	Core
EC1108	Skills for Economics I	5	1	Core
EC136	Principles of Macroeconomics	5	2	Core
EC1109	Skills for Economics II	5	2	Core

The module outlines, as well as any relevant course information, will be made available on Canvas and during the lectures.

CÉIM

First year students: Take part in CÉIM! Weekly CÉIM peer learning sessions are student led and are about working collaboratively in small groups to develop independent learning skills, discuss new topics on the course, prepare for upcoming assignments and exams, and have some fun! Initiated by University of Galway Students' Union in 2013, CÉIM is run as a partnership between students, academic staff and the Students' Union.

CÉIM supports 1st year students to transition successfully to University of Galway, make friends and create connections within their subject area, develop a sense of belonging, gain a greater understanding of coursework and ultimately proceed to 2nd year. [Learn more and find out how to take part.](#)

Second Year Information

CHOOSING A MAJOR

For the most part, the second year of the course is structured in the same way as the first year, so the information included in the handbook still applies. The main difference is that in the second year, you will be required to select one of the three core subjects – politics, economics, or law – to *major* in. This means you will be taking a larger number of modules in that field in order to specialize in its particular concepts, methods, and areas of expertise. The other two core subjects will be your *minors*, and you will still continue to take a number of modules in these fields.

You must take modules adding up to 30 ECTS for your major, and 15 ECTS for each of your minors. (60 ECTS in total for the academic year.)

SECOND YEAR MODULES POLITICS

Those *majoring* in Politics (SP2030) take six core modules (no optional modules). You take 15 ECTS per semester, 30 ECTS in total.

Those *minoring* in Politics (SP2015) choose three from the four optional modules. You take 15 ECTS in total.

Module Code	Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
SP2117	International and Global Politics	5	1	core	optional
SP2122	European Politics	5	1	core	optional
SPSK3101	Politics and Society: Themes and Topics	5	1	core	-
SP2123	Modern Political Thought	5	2	core	optional
SP220	Methods for Social and Political Science	5	2	core	optional
SPSK3102	Society and Politics: Ideas and Research	5	2	core	-

SECOND YEAR MODULES LAW

Those *majoring* in Law take five core modules, and one of the three optional modules. You take 30 ECTS in total.

Those *minoring* in Law take two core modules and choose one of the two optional modules. You take 15 ECTS in total.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
LW227	Constitutional Law 1	5	1	Core	Core
LW228	Constitutional Law 2	5	2	Core	Core
LW202	Contract Law 1	5	1	Core	Optional *
LW205	Contract Law 2	5	2	Core	Optional *
LW3161	Advanced Legal Skills	5	1	Core	
LW232	Housing Law and Policy	5	2	Optional *	
LW3162	International and Comparative Disability Rights	5	2	Optional *	
LW358	Environmental Law II	5	2	Optional *	

* All optional modules are subject to change

Please note: If you choose the Law major as part of the BA: Government (Politics, Economics & Law) you will earn 75ECTS of law modules. You are then eligible to complete the LLB in one year. The LLB is normally a three year postgraduate degree– effectively you are exempted from years 1 and 2 of the LLB programme and proceed directly to year three. The LLB programme is designed to prepare graduates to work as legal professionals or in a law-related environment.

Dr Illan Wall is the Programme Director for the LLB and he can answer any further questions you have on the LLB or the path to becoming a solicitor/lawyer. You can also find more information about the LLB [here](#).

SECOND YEAR MODULES ECONOMICS

Those *majoring* in Economics take four core modules, and two of the three optional modules. You take 30 ECTS in total.

Those *minoring* in Economics take three core modules (no optionals). You take 15 ECTS in total.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
EC207	Irish Economic History	5	1	Optional *	
EC247	Introduction to Financial Economics	5	2	Optional *	
EC259	Economics of Public Policy	5	2	Optional *	Core
EC268	Intermediate Macroeconomics	5	2	Core	Core
EC269	Intermediate Microeconomics	5	1	Core	Core
EC273	Mathematics for Economics	5	1	Core	
EC275	Statistics for Economics	5	2	Core	

* All optional modules are subject to change

Third Year Information

Please read the following information carefully, noting the instructions for both semester 1 and semester 2.

If you are spending the full academic year abroad, you **must** register for the following module **only: SP3196 (60 ECTS) Sociological and Political Studies (Study Abroad).**

All other Third Year BA Government students must register for the two core modules and three optional modules for Semester 1:

- **CORE**
SP3203 Professional Skills for Government and Policy (Preparation for placement/employment) 10 ECTS
- **CORE**
SP3204: Policymaking, Lobbying and Advocacy 5 ECTS
- **Choose three from the following 5ECTS OPTIONAL modules:**

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester
BSS2103	Introduction to Sustainability 1 (Aspire)	5	1
SP3206	Government Field Trip	5	1
SP3119	Green Political Thought	5	1
SP3202	Governing the Poor	5	1
SP493	Environmentalism	5	1

Semester 2

All Third Year BA Government students who are not spending a year abroad must choose one of the following options for semester 2:

OPTION 1

SP3210: Work Placement for Government and Policy (30 ECTS) Subject to availability

OPTION 2

Choose 6 of the following 5 ECTS modules

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Sem
SP3137	Youth and Society	5	2
MG3115	Megatrends	5	2
SP3103	European Union: Political Theory and Political Economy	5	2
SP3132	Political Liberty	5	2
SP3150	Teaching Methods for the Politics and Society Classroom	5	2
SP721	Ocean and Marine Politics	5	2
SP4131	Smart and Liveable Cities and Suburbs	5	2
SP3209	The Sociology of the Bio economy	5	2
SP3215	Security and World Affairs: People, Planet, Places	5	2
SP3213	Contemporary African Politics	5	2
SP3211	Empathy in Action	5	2

NOTE: MOST OF THE ABOVE OPTIONS (COMMENCING WITH SP CODE) WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN FOURTH YEAR WHEN STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE OPTIONAL MODULES. AN OPTION COMPLETED IN THIRD YEAR CANNOT BE TAKEN AGAIN IN FOURTH YEAR.

Fourth Year Information

You will be expected to take modules adding up to 30 ECTS for your major, and 15 ECTS for each of your minors.

FOURTH YEAR MODULES LAW

Those majoring in law take six modules (3 in each semester). Those minoring in Law, take two modules in semester 1 and one module in the semester 2. (See the table below. There are no optional modules.)

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
LW409	Criminal Law 1	5	1	Core	
LW4103	Administrative Law 1	5	1	Core	Core
LW503	European Union Law 1	5	1	Core	Core
LW413	Criminal Law 2	5	2	Core	
LW4104	Administrative Law 2	5	2	Core	
LW504	European Law 2	5	2	Core	Core

FOURTH YEAR MODULES POLITICS

Those majoring in Politics, take the two core modules and 4 optional modules (2 optional modules per semester). Those minoring in Politics, select the two core modules and one optional module.

Note: You cannot register again for an optional module that you have already taken in year 3.

Module Code	Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
SP3207	Public Policy & Government	5	1	core	core
SP3139	Comparative Government and Politics	5	2	core	core

SP219	Political Sociology	5	1	optional	optional
SP3197	Thinking Politically: The Power of Ideas	5	1	optional	optional
SP3208	Contemporary American Politics	5	1	optional	optional
SP3144	Political Liberty	5	2	optional	optional
SP3214	Biosociality and Bioeconomy: The Value(s) of Living Things	5	2	optional	optional
SP3103	European Union: Political Theory and Political Economy	5	2	optional	optional
SP4131	Smart and Liveable Cities and Suburbs	5	2	optional	optional
SP3213	Contemporary African Politics	5	2	optional	optional
SP3215	Security & World Affairs: People, Planet, Places	5	2	optional	optional
SP3150	Teaching Methods for the Politics and Society Classroom	5	2	optional	optional

FOURTH YEAR ECONOMICS

Those majoring in economics, take the two core modules and four optional modules.

Those minoring in economics, take the two core modules and one optional module.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
EC3101	Microeconomics and Public Policy	5	1	Core	Core
EC345	Health Economics	5	1	Optional	Optional
EC369	Money and Banking	5	1	Optional	Optional
EC388	Environmental and Natural Resources Economics	5	1	Optional	Optional

EC3105	Econometrics		1	Optional	Optional
EC3102	Macroeconomics and Public Policy	5	1	Core	Core
EC362	Economics of Financial Markets	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC386	Public Economics	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC429	Marine Economics	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC3106	Behavioural Finance	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC3100	Economics and Philosophy	5	2	Optional	Optional

Frequently Asked Questions

I'M NOT USED TO WRITING ACADEMIC ESSAYS: HOW OR WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

Students will receive direction and help by means of in-class tasks, assignments, and essay structure advice, from their lecturers, seminar leaders and fellow students. Many small seminars are designed to develop a student's academic writing skills. Further help and guidelines are available to all students at the library and in the Academic Writing Centre.

DO I NEED TO STICK TO THE WORD LIMIT ON MY ESSAYS?

The word limits are given for a specific reason in each case so it is important to aim for the particular word count instructed. Penalties will apply if the word count is more than 10% below or above the word limit. These word limits relate to the main text so exclude bibliography and footnotes.

CAN I EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS AND ESSAYS?

Generally speaking, email submission of examinable material will not be accepted and all examinable materials are required to be uploaded through Turnitin on Canvas.

WHAT DO I DO IF I RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES WITH TIME TO SUBMIT AN ASSIGNMENT OR ESSAY?

We all can run into difficulties from time-to-time so your first port-of-call, again, is your module teacher BEFORE THE STATED DEADLINE. He/she may be in a position to give you an extension on the submission of your assignment or essay based on documented medical evidence or for other exceptional circumstances. It is important to note that penalties may apply to such extension so please consult the module handbook in each particular case.

DO I HAVE TO REGISTER FOR CANVAS?

Students are automatically enrolled on Canvas once registered with the University. Your courses will then appear once you log on with your username and password. It is advisable to confirm your access to Canvas before needing it for important module information, online contributions, or deadlines. Further information on Canvas is available at [here](#).

I'M HAVING A PROBLEM WITH MY STUDENT ONLINE ACCOUNT OR EMAIL ACCOUNT?

The [Information Solutions and Services \(ISS\)](#) Department provides support and advice to students experiencing IT problems. Assistance is provided via the ticketing service and the helpdesk in the library. Please note, ISS are not in a position to assist students with their personal computer & laptop problems.

APPENDIX 1. Module descriptions for optional Politics modules:

BSS2103: Introduction to Sustainability

The module is future oriented and explores the concept of sustainability in the face of global change. It encompasses a wide range of theory and practice, including social, economic and environmental issues, and links international examples to local context and relevance. The module will challenge students to critically reflect on sustainability and current approaches to sustainability.

Lecturer: TBC

MG3115: Megatrends

The aim of this class is to enable students to become proficient in environmental scanning, by researching the world's most significant long term trends in technology, climate or demography that could open up new opportunities for business, such as the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, personalised medicine, wearables, climate change, international demographic and migration patterns, megacities, veganism, income inequality, fintech, and cybersecurity. In the first seven weeks, diverse student teams will research one Megatrend. During this process, students will learn to distinguish research-based evidence from hype, gauge the limits of prediction in long term trends, and assess implications for an organization of their choice. In weeks 8 and 9, teams will present audiovisual presentations on their research in conference format and be peer assessed. In weeks 10 to 12, students will develop personal reflections on how each Megatrend might affect their chosen organization and their career.

Lecturer: Yixin Qiu

SP219: Political Sociology

Political sociology seeks to understand the social origins and dynamics of political phenomena such as the modern state, nationalism, political mobilisation, civil war, conflict, and citizenship. Located at the boundary between the disciplines of sociology and political science it takes a sociological approach to the analysis of politics. It focuses in particular on the changing relationship between society and state. This course covers key themes and issues in political sociology, providing an overview of the major debates and perspectives in the field, tracing the changing relationship between state and society in the modern era. It provides an introduction to both classical and contemporary issues in political sociology and reviews the leading theoretical and historical approaches in the field in a way that illustrates theory with

concrete empirical work and case studies. The course explores how the nation-state became the dominant form of political organisation in the modern world and why it persists; why nationalism is such a powerful political and social force; why people get involved—and stay involved—in political parties and social movements; how civil wars break out and why people take up arms; how governments maintain their legitimacy and why it matters; the changing nature of warfare and its role in shaping societies and states; and how practices and concepts of citizenship have developed and changed in the modern era.

Lecturer: Niall Ó Dochartaigh

SP721 Ocean and Marine Politics

This course explores some of the politics that happens at sea. In particular we will focus on the politics of fishing and marine renewable energy, and to a lesser extent we will look at conflicts over marine natural resources, disputes on marine boundaries, and the role of the state as regards all matters of the sea. The course explores various theoretical perspectives, in particular an emerging literature that stresses the ‘social construction’ of the sea, and the concept of ‘resilience’. We will also examine methodological questions, or how should we study a politics of the seas? Here the focus is on exploring to what extent qualitative ethnographic methods can help shed understanding and context on complex marine based activities

Lecturer: Brendan Flynn

SP3210: Work Placement for Government and Policy (30 ECTS)

In Year Three of the BA Government (Politics, Economics and Law) students go on a supervised work placement from January to May. Work experience provides an opportunity for each student to accept responsibility for their own personal and professional development, training and progress.

Lecturer: Lisa Walshe

Work placement co-ordinator: Kat McDermott.

SP3213 Contemporary African Politics

This module will introduce students to some of the main debates and issues in contemporary African politics, exploring them within their historical, social and cultural contexts. Africa has been largely neglected in the study of politics and international relations, and has been subject to media representations that dismiss it as a continent universally ravaged by conflict, state collapse, famine, and disease. This module seeks to challenge these perspectives. Recognising the diversity and heterogeneity of the African experience, the module will explore the factors that have influenced social, economic, and political trajectories across the continent, and will consider both the challenges and opportunities in Africa’s contemporary domestic and international affairs. The module is organised along three central themes: a) colonial legacies and the nature of the contemporary African state; b) contemporary security and development challenges; and c) Africa’s international relations. By the end of the module, students should have a broad understanding of the politics of Africa, and its position in global affairs.

Lecturer: Dr. Sarah Jenkins

SP3103: European Union: Political Theory and Political Economy

This course aims to analyse the 'European Project' – an 'Unidentified Political Object' – through a discrete combination of three approaches: those of Political Theory, Political Economy and International Relations (IR). Students are not expected to be a priori theoretically au fait with academic scholarship in these three fields: you shall effectively be practically acquainted with and use political theory, political economy and IR ideas in analysing the various facets of the European Union (EU). The course shall be taught in four parts: first, we shall examine critically the historical origins of the European Idea and its 1980s 're-launch'; secondly, we will try to understand what the EU actually is, what it represents in terms of the political theory of the State and legitimacy; thirdly, the origins, progress and problems of the political economy of the Euro shall be dissected; and finally, the global meaning, role and positioning of the EU shall be assessed. If structure is a function of purpose – what exactly is the purpose of the EU in the 21st century and how should it appear and work?

Lecturer: Gerry Fitzpatrick.

SP3119: Green Political Thought

The module aims to analyse current ecological contradictions in public affairs through historical, philosophical, political theory, political economy and IR methodologies. The theoretical underpinnings of contemporary environmental policy-making and practice shall thus be articulated by setting them in a larger metaphysical context.

Lecturer: Gerry Fitzpatrick

SP3144 Political Liberty

This module provides the opportunity for students to engage critically with the philosophical literature on the concept of political liberty. Students will read and discuss key texts in modern political philosophy, beginning with Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*. Students will critically analyze the various ways in which liberty has been conceptualised by the most important political thinkers in the modern era. The first half of the module addresses three of the most important conceptions of political liberty: negative freedom, autonomy, and individuality. The second half of the module examines concrete political problems

Lecturer: Allyn Fives

SP3150 Teaching Methods for the Politics and Society Classroom

This module aims to provide students with the ability to examine and critically engage with the Leaving Certificate subject 'Politics and Society'. It will provide students with clear knowledge and understanding of the subject specification, the strands of study and the topics

of learning and discussion. It will give students the skills to identify and employ a range of materials, resources and teaching methodologies, which will allow them to effectively teach and engage with the subject. The module aims to provide students both with the skills and the confidence to provide a collaborative, participative and democratic learning environment for those studying the subject in a post primary school context.

Lecturer: Lisa Walshe

SP3203 Professional Skills for Government and Policy

The module prepares students for negotiating a work placement and for performing well in their placement. It sets out the numerous career pathways within government setting. The module provides transferable skills and will serve the student in the work placement and beyond, in the labour market. The module is delivered in collaboration with the Career Development Centre.

Lecturer: Lisa Walshe

SP3206 Government Field Trip

This module will examine the operations and functions of Irish government bodies and institutions. Students will participate in a number of visits, including a visit to Leinster house where they will listen to live debates in the Dáil, Seanad and of various committees. Students will be given the opportunity to meet with government officials, including the Parliamentary Educational Officer and the Ceann Comhairle where they will be invited to ask questions. These visits will provide knowledge of and insight into the operations of government and the role and function of the two houses.

Lecturer: Lisa Walshe

SP3202: Governing The Poor: The Politics of Welfare

This module explores how ideas concerning the poor are made practical and technical, and how this forms part of a more encompassing 'governmentality'. Empirically, the module focuses on liberal democracies (i.e. the course does not cover poverty in the 'developing world'). The first half of the course provides students with a set of theoretical tools before examining how the poor were governed during the 19th century, and in particular on how a distinctly modern understanding of poverty came to articulate practices relating to the regulation of freedom. The second half of the course covers the period from roughly 1970 to the present. This period saw a complex problem known as the 'new' poverty emerge, which subsequently split into relatively distinct discourses, on the one hand framed by the notion of an 'underclass', and on the other hand by the problem of 'social exclusion'. As we bring these contexts together we will see how the meaning and social significance of poverty is constructed (and is thus contingent), and in particular how the poor are governed through technologies of discipline and indirect control.

Lecturer: Kevin Ryan.

SP493 Environmentalism

Description TBA

Lecturer: George Taylor

SP3197 Thinking Politically: The Power of Ideas

This module explores the practical application of political theory to real-world issues and problems, thereby exploring ‘the power of ideas’. Topics include the use of torture against accused terrorists, restricting freedom of expression so as to maintain order, parental power over children, gender equality and queer identities, whistle-blowing, and the climate emergency. It also provides an introduction to and overview of some of the key arguments in the two main traditions in political theory: Analytical (e.g. Isaiah Berlin, John Rawls, Judith Shklar, Philip Pettit) & Continental (e.g. Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, Chantal Mouffe, Jacques Rancière). We draw attention to incommensurability between the two traditions and its significance for the conceptualization of critical thinking. From a standpoint of epistemic toleration, motivated in part by an awareness of family resemblances between the traditions, our aim is not to overcome incommensurability, but rather to make students aware of, and encourage their critical analysis of, the two traditions.

Lecturers: Kevin Ryan and Allyn Fives

SP3208 Contemporary American Politics

This module explores contemporary politics and political institutions in the United States. Students are introduced first to the basics of the American democratic system and then to examples of contemporary political issues. The module examines the basic American policy-making system, contemporary public opinion and voting behaviour, and the election of Donald Trump in 2016 and his defeat in 2020. The module will also examine pressing contemporary issues such as race relations, gun violence, economic inequality, concerns about the election process, and America’s changing position in the world economically and politically.

Lecturer: Kevin Leyden

SP3211 Empathy in Action

Social and emotional skills, such as empathy, self-awareness, respect for others and the ability to communicate, are becoming essential as classrooms and workplaces become more ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse. Empathy in Action focuses on developing these skills through a combination of action-based learning and reflective practice in collaboration with academic, enterprise and social partners. Students will work in multidisciplinary teams to solve real-world problems using empathy as a **central element of Design Thinking**. Empathy is fundamental in crafting design solutions and creating products that are useful and meaningful. Empathising with end-users allows students to understand the people we are designing for, learn about them, and understand their complex needs.

Lecturer: Neill Ferguson

SP3214 Biosociality and the Bio Economy: The value(s) of Living things

An increasing number of national governments and international organizations in the past 15+ years has been proposing, ratifying, and implementing a Bioeconomy strategy. Ireland published its National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy in 2018, integrated with the constantly updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy (following from the 2005 FP7 programme “Knowledge-based Bioeconomy”). This, on the one hand conceptually vague and ambiguous agenda, on the other hand comprehensive and concerted regime of transformation of the Global Political Economy across all scales (micromeso-, macro-), supported, implemented, and coordinated by policy-makers, investors, and (private sector) researchers, across the globe, has largely passed by the attention of the public at large. In this module, the genealogy of the Bioeconomy will be traced alongside the reconstruction of the transformative potentials it has realized across globe-spanning economic structures and into the reaches of people’s everyday lives. Scientific and ethical questions regarding emerging biotechnologies and exploiting ecosystem services will be reviewed through the social scientific lens. Related programs, such as the reforestation-and-carbon-offsetting REDD+ regime will be reviewed in terms of neo-colonial context of development financing architectures and the disenfranchising of vulnerable and indigenous peoples for a second time. A shift of perspective is provided in taking alternative concepts, histories, and futures of ‘bioeconomy’ into view. The goals and promises of the current Bioeconomy agenda will be reviewed in light of real outcomes and compared with the potentials that an opening up of the current agenda with its geopolitical focus on the Global North and the Eurocentric definition of concepts such as “value”, “equivalence”, or “sustainability” would undergo, if it allowed for the diversity of multiple bioeconomies otherwise to be realized.

Lecturer: Alex Stingl

SP3215 Security and World Affairs: People, Planet, Places

This specialist elective module provides students with a critical understanding of the contemporary security landscape, engaging with security as a concept and idea, a policy area, and an empirical reality. Students explore different contemporary security issues and how these relate to world affairs, thinking outside the box of mainstream security studies.

In more concrete terms, students will firstly look at traditional security questions related to conflict, war and international intervention, always with concrete empirical references to international politics. The module continues with the securitization of climate change, immigration, and health. The last part of the module examines the role of women in security and how development and security are interconnected.

The ultimate objective of this empirically-driven yet theory-informed module is for students to acquire a comprehensive understanding of what we call and perform as “security” in international politics nowadays. To do so, students are expected to adopt a multi-perspectival approach in their study, considering how security refers not only to people but also to different places, contexts and the whole planet.

Lecturer: Evans Fanoulis

SP4131 Smart and Liveable Cities and Suburbs

The year 2008 marked a turning point in global historical settlement patterns; for the first time in human history the majority of people now live in urban areas. By 2030, two-thirds of the world's population will be urban. This module explores the need to improve the way we plan and maintain our urban places in order to make them better for people and the planet. Three interrelated policy and business trends associated with urbanism are examined: Smart Cities, Liveable or Healthy Cities, and efforts to reduce the effects of car-dependent suburban sprawl. Each of these trends has importance for enhancing our quality of life and addressing climate change. Each also creates unique economic opportunities and public and social policy challenges. The course will critically examine these trends and their unique relevance internationally and for Ireland.

Lecturer: Kevin Leyden