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**School of Political Science & Sociology**

**2BA Booklet 2017 - 2018**

***This booklet contains (almost) everything you need to know!***

***Please read and keep safely***

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1. ***Who we are***

**2BA PROGRAMME TIMETABLE 2017-18**

**SEMESTER ONE:**

**SP212 Classical Social Thought (Core module)**

Professor Niamh Reilly

Tuesday 12.00 Arts Millennium (AM250); Wednesday 12.00 (AM250)

## SP216.I European Politics (Core module)

Dr Brendan Flynn

Monday 12.00 (O’Flaherty); Monday 2.00 (O’Flaherty)

**You must also CHOOSE ONE of the two elective modules:**

## SP226 Comparative Themes in Society, Politics & Culture

Dr Kathy Powell

Tuesday 2.00 (AM250); Friday 12.00 (IT 125, Ground Floor)

**OR**

**SP234** **International Relations**

Dr. Eilis Ward

Tuesday 2.00 (D’Arcy Thompson); Friday 12.00 (AM150)

**SEMESTER TWO:**

## SP215.II Modern Political Thought (Core module)

Gerry Fitzpatrick

Wednesday 12.00 (AM250); Friday 12.00 (AM250)

## SP220 Methods for Social & Political Science (Core module)

Dr. Mike Hynes

Dr. Amanda Slevin

Monday 2.00 (O’Flaherty); Tuesday 12.00 (O’Flaherty)

**You must also CHOOSE ONE of the two elective modules:**

**SP219 Political Sociology**

Dr Niall O Dochartaigh

Monday 12.00 ( Eng. GO17); Tuesday 2.00 ( AM200)

**OR**

**SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses**

Dr Brian McGrath and Colleagues

Monday 12.00 (AM200); Tuesday 2.00 (Aras Moyola main theatre)

##### How Second Year Works…..

***(BA2 results are worth 30% of your final degree classification.)***

**Each semester you take 2 core modules and 1 elective: see the table below.**

**You make your own choice from the two electives 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 [reghelp@nuigalway.ie](mailto:reghelp@nuigalway.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 seminar are contained later in the booklet.**

**SEMESTER ONE SEMESTER TWO**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SP216**  **European**  **Politics**  (CORE)  lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one  essay |  | **SP215**  **Modern**  **Political Thought**  (CORE)  lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one  essay |
| **SP212**  **Classical**  **Social Thought**  (CORE)  lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one  essay |  | **SP220**  **Methods for Social and Political Science**  (CORE)  lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one research proposal |
| **EITHER**  **SP226**  **Comparative Themes in Society,**  **Politics & Culture**  (ELECTIVE)  lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one  essay |  | **EITHER**  **SP219**  **Political**  **Sociology**  (ELECTIVE)    lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one  essay |
| **OR**  **SP234**  **International Relations**  (ELECTIVE)  lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one  essay |  | **OR**  **SP235**  **Social Issues & Policy Responses** (ELECTIVE)  lectures | Accompanying general seminar – two discussion topics, one  essay |

**Checklist of Dates**

* **Lectures start in the first week of the Semester** with an introductory week and special timetable. Lectures take place in **AM250** on **Tuesday 5th** **September at 12 noon** and also at 2.00; on Wednesday at 12.00 also in AM250; and on Friday 8th September 12 noon in IT 125. (See main web site for full Timetable details)
* Regular lecture-times are in place from **Monday 11th September**.
* Details of how to register for the the Seminars (mandatory) will be provided at the *Introductory Lecture on Tuesday September 5th at 12.00 in AM250*
* Seminars start the week of Monday **September 25th  and** **end** **November 24th** (nine weeks).

Module Assessment:

All modules are assessed through: (a) exam, (70%); (b) a written assignment (20%) and (c) attendance and participation in seminars (10%). **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 Historians of our School would ascertain at least one fact: students who attend lectures and seminars consistently perform better than those who don’t.

**Seminar Registration**

The seminars begin on the week of **Monday Sept 25th and registration and details of how to register for them will be given at the Introductory lecture**. Please note that seminars are **obligatory** for all students with the exception of Visiting and Erasmus students.

IN **SEMESTER 2**, LECTURES BEGIN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER on January 15th AND *SEMINARS* BEGIN Week - Commencing January 29th until Week-Ending April 13th .

CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**In 2nd year you take 2 core, 1 elective module and a general seminar EACH semester.**

**GENERAL SEMINARS**

**Students are required to attend general seminars once a week for nine weeks in each semester.**

You are **required** to register for a seminar group using our registration process (details of how to register will be given in lectures during the introductory week).

What is the Purpose of the Seminars?

The seminar supports and extends the learning in the modules. The format is: small numbers of students meeting weekly, to encourage group discussion and debate around selected themes, and designed specifically to help you develop your critical thinking skills.

How do they work?

Prior to the seminars starting you will be given a **Seminar Guide**, detailing the discussion/essay themes. There will also be a **READING PACK** (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 contains a set of assigned readings which shape discussion each week and are derived from the module content and constitute the essay subject. You do the assigned reading each week in advance. 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.

How are they assessed?

Of the 100% mark for each module assessment is based on 70% from the exam and 30% from the seminar - of which 20% is from the essay and 10% from participation and attendance.

**You are obliged to produce three essays per semester – one for each 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.

**General Seminar**

Prerequisites: None

Min./max. no. of students: The class is split into small groups (10 to 18) for seminars

Seminar Tutor: Staff Member

Teaching and learning methods: Each week one topic from a set list is discussed. The discussion is based on assigned readings from each of the four lecture courses.

Methods of assessment and examination: The seminar course is assessed on attendance /participation, and three short essays per semester.

Languages of instruction: English Core texts: Assigned readings.

Note: Students remain in the same seminar group for both semesters unless there is a need to change for timetable reasons.

**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 at the School’s website.**

Module Descriptions

###### Semester 1

Module: **SP216.I** **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 coursework in semester 1 general seminars as described below.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings

Module: **SP212** **Classical Social Thought**

Lecturer: Professor Niamh Reilly

Sociology’s classical theoretical tradition is heavily dominated by the contributions of Marx, Weber and Durkheim. One reason for this is that these three social theorists have contributed a great deal to our understanding of the nature of the transition from pre-industrial to industrial society. Another reason is that these three theorists have set the terms of much of the ongoing debate concerning modernity and its future prospects.   Their ideas, in other words, continue to have a relevance to the interpretation of present-day society under advanced capitalism. The theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim can be presented in several ways. The approach taken in this module will be thematic and comparative in that it will bring together the ideas of Marx, Weber and Durkheim in relation to a series of questions and topics. More specifically, these topics will range across the methods appropriate to the study of society, class and the division of labour, the state and democratic politics and the nature of culture, religion and ideology.

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 coursework in semester 1 general seminars.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: K. Morrison, *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formations of Modern Social Thought*, 1995, Sage.

Anthony Giddens, *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*, 1981, Cambridge University Press.

**Yous choose from ONE of the following two modules.**

**EITHER**

Module: SP226 Comparative Themes in Society, Politics and Culture

Lecturer. Dr. Kathy Powell

This module involves the study of selected issues in social, political and cultural fields from a comparative perspective, using case study materials from various regions of the world, with an emphasis on Latin America. The contextual framework for the course is the global emergence of neoliberalism as a dominant model over the last 30 years. We will consider issues relating to a couple of the major characteristics of this period: firstly, high and increasing levels of inequality, both within and between regions of the world, and secondly, the global spread of democratization.

Inequalities are evident in a wide range of areas, from levels of income, standards of living, structures of opportunities, to political power, physical vulnerability, respect for political rights, and are experienced through relations of class, race, gender and ethnicity. While inequality is the unifying theme of the course, we will focus throughout on specific ways in which people respond to and confront the challenges which issue from increasing inequalities: these responses have notably included changes in household reproduction strategies, and increases in informality, migration, and criminality.

The module begins by outlining the contextual framework, and establishing a theoretical framework for analysing the specific sets of case studies which focus on these responses: this includes the concept of social reproduction, a relational theory of class processes, and a consideration of the relationship between structure and agency, a central problematic of social and political studies.

The first of our case studies examine household and livelihood strategies for coping with social and economic change and crisis. We then consider increasing participation in the large and growing “informal” sector economies which characterise many countries, and labour migration, exploring the nature and significance of “informal” sector work and migratory processes, as well as the overlap between informality and migration. Finally in this section we consider the links between inequality, marginalization, and criminality.

**Democratization**

While a second notable feature of the neoliberal period has been the ‘global’ spread of democracy, this has done little to significantly improve either socio-economic or political inequality. In this light, we will consider political inequalities within and between regions of the world, concentrating on the nature and quality of democratic ‘transition’ processes in specific countries, and questioning the relation between these processes and the increasing social and political exclusion which fuels problems such as rising urban violence.

The module uses comparative and inter-disciplinary frameworks to demonstrate the importance of examining global processes through the specific historical, socio-cultural and political *contexts* in which they unfold, in order to reach a fuller understanding of social realities, and of the similarities and differences between one context and another. This enables us to move beyond taken-for–granted assumptions that we may have, based on our own context and experience, about different social and political worlds.

**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 coursework in semester 1 general seminars.

Languages of instruction: English

**OR**

Module: **SP234 International Relations**

Lecturer: Dr. Eilis Ward

This module provides an introduction to the study of international relations, exploring the politics of relations between states as well as the activities and roles of non-state actors such as non governmental organisations, transanational corporations and rebel armies. The module focuses on key ideas, institutions, theories and issues with a particular emphasis on understanding the causes of war and measures to secure peace. All our ideas about what should happen in the international arena are filtered through different sets of values concerning political life. The module begins accordingly by setting out four such frameworks: realism, liberalism, marxism and social constructivism. It moves on then to deal with the United Nations’ approach to building peace and resolving conflict, with debates on international intervention, human rights and human security – and with the links between economic development and civil war. Theoretical debates are linked to issues of urgent public concern and illustrated with case studies.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and Learning Method: Lectures

Method of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for coursework in semester 1 general seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Core Texts: John Bayliss and Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (eds.) 2010. *The Globalization of World Politics*, ***5th edition***, Oxford: OUP. (327.101 GLO)

Additional readings will be assigned as appropriate.

**Module Descriptions – Semester 2**

Module: **SP215.II 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 coursework in general seminars as described in this booklet.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings

Module: **SP220** **Methods for Social and Political Science**

Lecturer: Dr. Mike Hynes and Dr. Amanda Slevin

We begin this module by discussing what sociological and political data are and why we should want to collect them. We then show you how to use a selection of qualitative and quantitative research methods.   Methods to be explored include basic qualitative approaches such as participant observation, interviewing, visual methods, oral history, or autobiography. Issues surrounding the interpretation of research and research accountability, as well as the writing of research will also be examined.   In the quantitative section of the course, students will be introduced to key aspects of survey research, including issues of operationalisation and sampling, data collection and analysis. The overall aim of the course is to enable you to carry out and present a research project. It will be assessed by examination and a research proposal.

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

Methods of assessment and examination: Two hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for coursework in semester 2 general seminars (including submission of a research proposal).

Languages of instruction: English

Core text: Assigned readings and textbook on research methods.

**In Semester 2 you will choose from ONE of the following TWO electives**

**EITHER**

Module: **SP219** **Political Sociology**

Lecturer: Dr. Niall O Dochartaigh

Political sociology can broadly be defined as the study of the relationship between society and politics. It is located at the boundary between the disciplines of sociology and political science, providing a sociological analysis of the political. This course covers major themes and issues in political sociology, providing an overview of the major debates and perspectives in the field and emphasising the relationship between state and society. 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. It examines the development of the modern state and the changing character of state-society relations, focusing in particular on the growth of nationalism, state bureaucracy and economic change. It also examines war and organized violence, political legitimacy, mobilisation and political participation, citizenship, nationalism, new technologies and globalisation.

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 coursework in semester 2 general seminars.

Languages of instruction: English

Core text: Assigned readings.

**OR**

Module: **SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses**

Lecturers: Dr Brian McGrath & Colleagues.

The course will provide participants with the opportunity to examine pressing contemporary social issues and how policies have responded to these.

This module is structured around four core themes. It begins by examining key concepts which lay a foundation for thinking about social issues in a welfare context (Theme 1). It identifies key sociological and political dimensions of such core concepts as 'need', 'poverty', 'social in/exclusion', 'inequality', among others. It also frames the context of social issues by examining the role of the state, family, market and civil society/community within welfare and policy. Having established an initial conceptual basis, we then explore a selective range of significant contemporary themes and policy issues that focus on the subjects of gender, children and families. The three themes that follow are: gender, equality, rights and policy (Theme 2); child protection, rights and policy (Theme 3); and family, children, social support and policy (Theme 4). The policy responses – Irish and International - to the welfare issues explored reflect distinctive yet similar principles and approaches, which are framed in the context of social work, equality and human rights, family support and community development. Through these themes/cases the module provides a range of perspectives on some of the pressing public issues of welfare and what these mean for the provision of welfare for citizens in contemporary times.

The objectives of the course are to afford participants the opportunity to begin to understand different aspects of policy design with the social and political problems they are intended to solve. The course will focus on using critical thinking skills and theoretical knowledge to attempt to make sense of the opportunities and experiences of marginalized groups living in a complex and rapidly changing Ireland.

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 coursework in semester 2 general seminars.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings for each week.

**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 intellectural and personal skills in a manner which will benefit you professionally and across your life course.

**YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!**

* In this School we encourage you to take responsibility for your own learning. 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 give 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.
* **You are obliged to ensure that none of the work you submit is plagiarised.**  Plagiarism is copying someone else’s work, whether from a published book, the internet, lecture notes, or another student, and presenting it as one’s own work. It also includes paraphrasing a text very closely. **Plagiarism is therefore both theft and fraud and may result in an outright fail.** Written work will be considered plagiarised whether wholly or partly copied, and whether copied from one or multiple sources. You must ensure that every source used in written work is fully referenced and every quote is clearly marked as a quote and referenced. ***Guidelines and the norms in relation to referencing in order to avoid plagiarism will be provided in the general seminars.***
* 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.
* ***Second Year Results are now worth 30% of your overall degree result: you must therefore assume that your final degree class shall 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 modules cannot submit Continuous Assessment work as part of their Second Examination Sitting. Their repeat performance shall thus 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 SHALL BE CAPPED AT 40%.***

Who we are:

Second Year Co-ordinator: Gerry Fitzpatrick

Room 327, 2nd Floor, Áras Moyola

([socpol2ba@nuigalway.ie](mailto:socpol2ba@nuigalway.ie))

**School Academic Co-ordinator:**  Michael Donnelly

Room 304, 2nd Floor, Áras Moyola

([michael.donnelly@nuigalway.ie](mailto:michael.donnelly@nuigalway.ie))

Lecturers:

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Brendan Flynn

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Niamh Reilly

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Gerry Fitzpatrick

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Head of School

Dr Anne Byrne

**Room 314, Áras Moyola**

e-mail: [Anne.byrne@nuigalway.ie](mailto:Anne.byrne@nuigalway.ie)

**DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE**

Please note that there is a great deal of information available on the departmental website, including timetables, course outlines, contact details and online materials. The website address is [www.nuigalway.ie/soc/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/soc/)

### NOTICEBOARD

Information for 2nd year students regarding seminar group allocation, timetabling issues, etc. will be posted on the 2nd year Blackboard site 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 tutor if they have any concerns or wish to raise any issues regarding the School.

**BLACKBOARD**

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

**Finally, I sincerely hope that your second year will be an enjoyable, academically rewarding and enriching experience.**