

***BA Public and Social Policy***

**Student Handbook 2017/2018**

*While every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this Handbook are accurate, this Handbook is issued for the* ***guidance*** *of students only. Course content and course options are evolving and students are advised to verify information in this Handbook with the appropriate Schools.*

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**Welcome**

I would like to welcome all new BA Public and Social Policy undergraduates and returning students to NUI Galway for the 2016/17 academic year.

I hope that you will all enjoy your course in Public and Social Policy as well as the cultural activities that NUI 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 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. You should make it a priority to get in touch with the Community Knowledge Initiative office and find out about their ALIVE programme and the various volunteering opportunities available to you.

For those coming to NUI Galway for the first time, please note that it will take you some time to adjust to being in large classes in a very large institution. Finding your way around may be difficult at first, but it will get easier. There are **support staff** and as the BA Public and Social Policy Programme Director, I will be available to advise and assist you. I am contactable by e-mail at [kevin.leyden@nuigalway.ie](mailto:kevin.leyden@nuigalway.ie) and you can also call to my office at 313 Aras Moyola by appointment. If you are having any difficulties please let us know.

To our returning second and third year students welcome back and I hope that you are ready for an enjoyable year ahead. There have been some recent changes to the co-ordination of the BA Public and Social Policy. As Course Director, I will take overall responsibility for the running of the programme. I am also the first year coordinator. Dr. Aidan Kane from the Discipline of Economics is the 2nd year coordinator and Dr. Maureen O’Sullivan from the School of Law is the 3rd year coordinator.

Best of luck in 2017/2018!

Professor Kevin M. Leyden

Programme Director, BA Public and Social Policy

**TERM DATES 2016/17**

*Semester I*

Orientation week Tuesday, 29th August- Friday 1st September, 2017

Teaching begins Monday, 4th September, 2017

Teaching ends Friday, 24th November, 2017

Study week Monday, 27th November – Friday, 1st December, 2017

Examinations begin Monday, 4th December, 2017

Examinations end Friday 15th December, 2017

*Semester II*

Teaching begins Monday, 15th January, 2018

Teaching ends Friday, 20th April, 2018

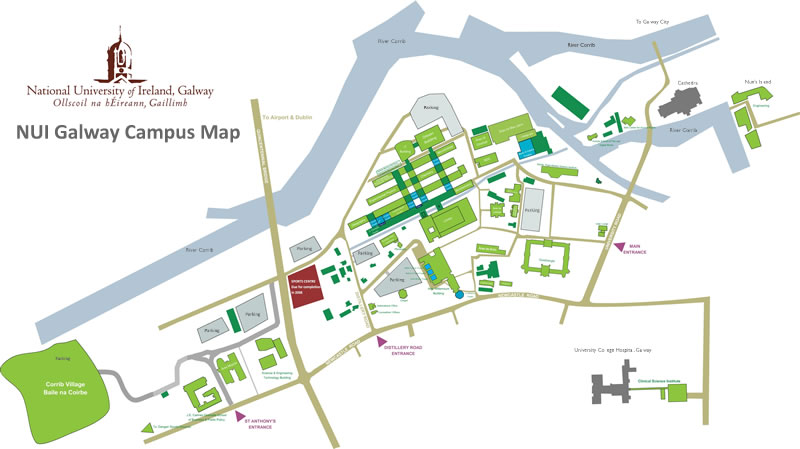
Study week Monday, 23rd April 2018

Easter Holiday Break Monday, 26th March – Sunday 8th April, 2018

Examinations begin Monday, 30th April, 2018

***Bank Holidays: Monday 30th October 2017 / Monday 19th March 2018***

**NUI Galway Campus Map**

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**NOTE TO BA PUBLIC AND SOCIAL POLICY STUDENTS:** The School of Political Science and Sociology is located in Aras Moyola, The School of Economics is located in St. Anthony’s and the School of Law is in Tower 2 in the Arts Concourse.

**Advice and Resources**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Welcome** to the Denominated Degree Programme in Public and Social Policy at NUI Galway. It is hoped that your time associated with NUI Galway will be both enjoyable and valuable to you. This handbook has been prepared to provide you with basic information relating to the BA in Public and Social Policy. Please note that it is intended as a **guide only**; you should always check information prior to making course choices. 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 to allow you to compete successfully in the job market. Many of these skills (e.g., research skills, 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. This section sets out some advice and basic resources available to you in order to successfully complete your studies at NUI Galway.

**LECTURE NOTES, ATTENDANCE AND CRITICAL THINKING**

You are obliged under University regulations to attend as many lectures as possible. Many lecturers provide their notes on Blackboard 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. In any event you should realise that no set of provided notes can compensate for missing lectures! **The best way to understand 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 a secondary school 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. Students should not approach lectures in a state of panic, trying to jot down everything. Instead it is much more important for students to really listen, to be selective, to 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**.

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials as far as possible. Should a student be absent for an extended period for medical reasons, the Course Director and convener of the lecture course/practical should be informed as soon as possible and a medical certificate provided. **In addition,**  **all lecturers will facilitate students with special needs in whatever way is possible**.

**EXAM PREPARATION AND DETAILS**

Here are some rather obvious but nonetheless useful exam preparation tips. Please note that each lecturer will of course give more specific and detailed advice on how to approach exams in the allocated time given for each lecturer to review the course.

**Revision/Preparing for Exams**

Last minute ‘cramming’ the night before, is no way to treat any University exam. 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. Students should be more methodical and have more options that just hoping certain topics show up. You probably need to pick several topics, rather than just two or three in each of the courses. 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 textbooks or any additional reading. Building you 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 not just about rote learning, it is about you rethinking the topics, 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 NUIG website at [www.nuigalway.ie/exams/papers.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/exams/papers.html). 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**

All students will have an exam number. Write your exam number on all examination material. This exam number will also provide your location/sitting guide inside an exam hall. Do not forget your exam number slip, as you will need it for admittance to the exam hall. It is usually posted out to your term or home address or available online. Note, that in some subjects, the exam hall may be located off campus. This means you need to double check its location or be sure of a taxi booking, etc. Usually the Students Union makes provision of special bus and taxi services during examinations time.

**Timetable**

Make sure, well in advance, that you know when and where your exam will be held. They are held in the morning or afternoon in various locations and some will require transportation.

**Managing the Exam Paper**

Much of exam performance can be down to how students manage the exam paper. Do you just panic and answer the first question that looks half-familiar? Read all the questions, taking care to think about what is really being asked, what are the sub-questions lurking within, etc. Decide which questions are best for you, or that you feel most able for. But then really critique and analyse that question. What is the questioner 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, plans, key words, themes and ideas that come into your head. Try and work out a structure and plan. Make sure to allocate equal time to each question and always attempt the minimum required questions. **Never leave the exam hall having written one good question but then decided you cannot answer any others** - **always attempt the minimum 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 Office (see below).

**The Night Before**

Make sure you get plenty of sleep, eat well and go into the exam relaxed, refreshed and ready for anything!!

**YOUR QUERIES AND PROBLEMS: WHERE TO GO FOR HELP**

There are a number of people you can turn to for help at any stage during this BA course. First if you have a specific question about a lecture, or some material covered in a lecture or the readings, you could contact the *lecturer* at the end of the class, or see them during their office hours or alternatively email them. All lecturers email addresses are available on the NUI Galway website. All lecturers will have designated office hours when students can reach them in their office to follow up on *academic* problems.

Also, don’t forget your *tutor* in specific modules*.* Your tutor will very often be an invaluable contact point by which to address concepts that you find confusing or vague. One function of the tutorial system is to allow you to clarify academic material.

If you are encountering severe medical, personal, emotional, family or financial problems at any time during your time at NUI Galway, there is more expert University level staff that could be of help and should be approached by you. These include:

**Student Contact Centre**

The Student Contact Centre is located on the ground floor of Áras Uí­ Chathail (right-hand side), which is situated on the main campus. The Centre provides a range of services to students, including:

* Registration, Exams and Admissions queries
* Prospectus pick up
* Replacement ID Cards (€30 charge)
* Transcript Requests (Min one weeks’ notice required)
* Validation and stamping of forms e.g. social welfare, medical card, drug payment, USIT visa (Student Travelcard forms are stamped by SU)
* Change of Name/ Change of Address requests
* Statements e.g. letters of attendance

Opening Hours: 10:00 to 12:30 and 2pm to 4pm   
Postal Address: Student Contact Centre, Ground Floor, Áras Uí Chathail, NUI Galway   
Email: [scc@nuigalway.ie](mailto:scc@nuigalway.ie)

Telephone: 091 495999

**University Counsellors**

They are located at No.5 Distillery Road, (which is nearby the AIB bank entrance to the University), on the right hand side in a two storey house). Individual counsellors include: Eamonn O Dochartaigh, Emer Casey, and Geraldine Connolly. They can all be emailed: [eamonn.odochartaigh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:eamonn.odochartaigh@nuigalway.ie), [emer.casey@nuigalway.ie](mailto:emer.casey@nuigalway.ie), [geraldine.connolly@nuigalway.ie](mailto:geraldine.connolly@nuigalway.ie). The phone number for the Counselling service is 091 492484. The website is: http://www.nuigalway.ie/student\_services/counsellors/

**Disability Office**

Aisling Palmer

Disability Officer

Room 216, Áras Uí Cathail

Tel. 353 (0) 91 493541, Fax: 353 (0) 91 495542,

E-mail: elizabeth.walsh@nuigalway.ie

**University Chaplains**

See: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/student_services/chaplains/Finding_Us.html> or simply call into No.2 Distillery Road.

**The Students Union (SU)**

The Students Union also has created a site for information for 1BA students which is very worthwhile. See: <http://firstinfo.nuigalway.ie/> or call into the SU at Áras na Macleinn. Check out the University’s core page on student services: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/student_services/>. The Students Union is very useful with regard to questions of welfare, and also helping academic performance as well. They usually run an excellent study skills workshop during the year.

**Student Health Unit.**

The Health Unit is located upstairs in Áras na Macleinn (beside the Students Union Office). Tel: 091-492604.

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

**COORDINATORS**

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 **Year Coordinator***.* Contact details are provided on Page 12. 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.

If you have any trouble contacting staff then you should discuss this with your **Year Coordinator**. You should contact them 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 Year 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**. **If you move house during the year you should notify the Course Director of any change of address as soon as possible.**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

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. The minutes from these meetings will be passed on to the BA PSP Management Committee which will take action on the issues raised within the constraints of overall University administration, regulations, policy and resources.

**BA PULIC AND SOCIAL POLICY ON BLACKBOARD, OUR NOTICE BOARD, and FACEBOOK**

The Programme Director and the Year coordinators will attempt to communicate important information to you via **Blackboard or email**. In addition, we have a notice board located in the entrance of the School of Political Science and Sociology, Floor 2, Aras Moyola. And we are working on a **Facebook** page. You should check regularly for new or updated information relating to the course, such as changes to the lectures or practical schedules, extra courses, field trips, details of practical exams etc.

**Coordinator Contact Details**

**PROGRAMME Director**

Professor Kevin M. Leyden

School of Political Science & Sociology

Office 313, Aras Moyola

Ext. 2299

kevin.leyden@nuigalway.ie

**First Year Coordinator**

Professor Kevin M. Leyden

School of Political Science & Sociology

Office 313, Aras Moyola

Ext. 2299

kevin.leyden@nuigalway.ie

**Second Year Coordinator**

Dr Aidan Kane

School of Economics

Room 206, First Floor, St. Anthony's.

Ext. 2530

aidan.kane@nuigalway.ie

**Third Year Coordinator**

Ms Maureen O’Sullivan

School of Law

Room 206, Block T, Distillery Road.

Ext. 5627

[maureen.osullivan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:maureen.osullivan@nuigalway.ie)

**Important Web Resources**

NUI Galway [www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie)

Discipline of Economics [www.economics.nuigalway.ie/](http://www.economics.nuigalway.ie/)

School of Political Science and Sociology [www.nuigalway.ie/soc/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/soc/)

School of Law [www.nuigalway.ie/law/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/law/)

Student Contact Centre [www.nuigalway.ie/student-contact-centre/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-contact-centre/)

Students Union [www.su.nuigalway.ie/](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie/)

**1BA PSP COURSE OUTLINES**

**SEMESTER I**

**SP158 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS AND SOCIOLOGY**

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to political science and sociology in a highly accessible way. The course will include an introduction to basic sociological concepts, intellectual traditions and core thinkers. Topics to be covered include: the sociology of culture, class, poverty, crime, and deviance. Many case studies will be offered using issues from an Irish context. This course will also provide students with a critical approach to the study of political parties and governing institutions. Case studies from the Republic of Ireland will be used to highlight key features of these. Discussion will centre on: the uniqueness of Irish political parties; Irish voters’ behaviour; the Irish electoral system; local government; the civil service; the Taoiseach and cabinet system. At the end of this course students will have an excellent basic grounding in how the disciplines of sociology and political science understand and interpret complex social and political phenomena. Moreover, students will also have an insight into social and political debates which are highly pertinent to Ireland.

**SP160 PROBLEMS IN SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICS**

The seminars in this module are designed to promote inquiry based learning, to enhance practical scholarship skills while engaging with real world problems. Students work in small groups under the guidance of a seminar tutor. Students are introduced to reading texts critically, taking effective notes, gathering information and using the library, using the internet as a research tool, doing group assignments and working in groups, giving presentations, preparing and writing essays, using academic language, revising and taking exams, preparing for future subject and career choices. This module is examined by continuous assessment, six short written assignments (three per semester) and two written essays (one per semester).

**EC135 PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS**

The objective of this course is to introduce the basic concepts and principles of economic theory, and to illustrate how these principles can be used to analyse various issues and problems in everyday life. The following will be covered: Microeconomics: decision making of individual households and firms, markets for goods and factors of production. Various topics will be analysed using micro econom

**EC106 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH FOR PUBLIC AND SOCIAL POLICY**

This course is aims to introduce students to the fundamental research tools employed in policy analysis. The module is inter-disciplinary with a third of the course looking at the research methods utilised in Political Science and Sociology, the next third focuses on research methods employed by Economists and the final part of the course considers research methods used by Legal Scientists. This course is 100% Continuous Assessment details of which will be distributed in class.

**LW121 IRISH LEGAL SYSTEMS**

This course comprises a general introduction to legal study, to the sources and institutions of Irish Law and to legal method. The course covers the historical background to Irish Law and the growth of the legal system including the constitutional

and legal steps leading to the creation of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The legislative, administrative and judicial system of the Republic of Ireland is examined in detail. The course will include exercises in analysing statutes and case law.

**EC1108 SKILLS FOR ECONOMICS I**

**SEMESTER II**

**SP159 CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES IN SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICS**

This module takes at its focus the issue of social and political change; how and why do societies change in sociologically and political profound ways? The relationship between ideas and action are explored through the concept of ideology. Examining the origins of modern political ideologies, the course begins with liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and nationalism, focusing in particular on how these ideologies have changed over time, and how they have shaped the meaning of ‘freedom’, ‘equality’, ‘solidarity’, and ‘authority’. Building on this survey of key political ideas, the second part of the course looks at feminism, ecologism, contemporary anarchism, and religious fundamentalism, and maps the contours of a number of key challenges in the 21st century: power and gender after ‘second wave’ feminism; order and cohesion in situations of cultural pluralism; the politics of climate change; and conflicting conceptions of ‘globalisation’. By exploring interrelated processes of formation and change, students will have the opportunity to study how the social and political landscape is formed and transformed, not only in terms of parties, government and state, but also in terms of social identities and cultural practices. At the end of this module, students will have a deeper appreciation of a core theme in sociology and political science, namely how and why do societies change the way they do, and what alternatives for social organisation might be possible. This module is examined by an end of semester two hour written examination.

**SP160 PROBLEMS IN SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICS (Continued)**

The seminars in this module are designed to promote inquiry based learning, to enhance practical scholarship skills while engaging with real world problems. Students work in small groups under the guidance of a seminar tutor. Students are introduced to reading texts critically, taking effective notes, gathering information and using the library, using the internet as a research tool, doing group assignments and working in groups, giving presentations, preparing and writing essays, using academic language, revising and taking exams, preparing for future subject and career choices. This module is examined by continuous assessment, six short written assignments (three per semester) and two written essays (one per semester).

**EC136 MACROECONOMICS**

The objective of this course is to introduce the basic concepts and principles of economic

theory, and to illustrate how these principles can be used to analyse various issues and

problems in everyday life. The following will be covered: Macroeconomics: national

income accounting, models of the macroeconomy, applied economics. Various topics

will be analysed using macroeconomic theory.

**LW114 LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY**

This course deals with four main topics: (1) the social nature, sources and functions of law; (2) social and philosophical critiques of law; (3) the social and practical consequences of law; (4) the enforcement of law, including (a) an examination of legal institutions and personnel (the courts, the legal profession and the police), and (b) punishment for breach of the law (including sentencing theory).

**SP109 PUBLIC AND SOCIAL POLICY IN IRELAND**

The aim of this course is to analyse and explore issues of public and social concern in Ireland. The course begins with a brief introduction to the theoretical area of policy. We will then examine primary areas of both public and social policy, allowing students to gain an appreciation of these topics.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module students should be able to;

**L1** Demonstrate a critical awareness of social issues and problems and outline the current policy response in Ireland

**L2** Comprehend of the institutional factors accounting for policy change in selected areas

**L3** Evaluate the impact of current social policies on service users

**L4** Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in a written format

**2BA PSP COURSE OUTLINES**

**SEMESTER I**

**LW220 Sociology of Law**

This course deals with four main topics: (1) the social nature, sources and functions of law; (2) social and philosophical critiques of law; (3) the social and practical consequences of law; (4) the enforcement of law, including (a) an examination of legal institutions and personnel (the courts, the legal profession and the police), and (b) punishment for breach of the law (including sentencing theory).

**LW227 Constitutional Law I**

While devoted mainly to a detailed study of the Irish Constitution of 1937, this course will also include an introduction to constitutional theory, a survey of Irish constitutional development 1919–1936 and an analysis of important constitutional decisions from other jurisdictions, notably the United States, for comparative purposes.

**EC269 INTERMEDIATE Microeconomics**

This is an intermediate microeconomics course dealing with the theory and application of microeconomics. Topics covered include consumer behaviour, utility theory, applications of consumer theory, production and costs, market structure, theories of pricing, game theory, general equilibrium theory, externalities and public goods, economics of information and welfare economics. We review the neo-classical and non neo-classical theories of consumer behaviour and their implications for the government’s policies.

**EC273 Mathematics for Economics**

The purpose of this course is to provide students the necessary mathematical skills to pursue more advanced courses in economics. The course is devised to enhance the necessary technical skills in the areas of Algebra and Calculus, which are used in almost all the sub-disciplines of economics. The course emphasizes the need to enhance the computational skills along with the analytical skills that is required for solving economic problems posed in the language of mathematics.

**SP216 European Politics**

This course 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.

**SP227 Public Administration**

This course aims to introduce the discipline of public administration and the development of ideas and concepts in the field of public administration. The relevance of this course to public and social policy students lies in the important role public administration occupies at all stages in the policy making process. Beginning with the historical development of the discipline right through to the new public management reforms of contemporary administrative systems this module will provide public and social policy students with a sound conceptual basis for the study of administrative systems.

**SEMESTER II**

**LW228 Constitutional Law II**

While devoted mainly to a detailed study of the Irish Constitution of 1937, this course will also include an introduction to constitutional theory, a survey of Irish constitutional development 1919–1936 and an analysis of important constitutional decisions from other jurisdictions, notably the United States, for comparative purposes.

**SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses**

The drafting of policy and the provision of services in contemporary Ireland has moved through various stages with the emphasis regularly changing depending on a political agenda and public interest. This course will provide participants with the opportunity to examine various social issues through an investigation of the historical development, the current state and the possible future direction of policy responses. The course examines different stages of life-course development, focusing on issues such as childhood and the real or intended policy measures connected with it, as well as challenges connected with adolescence, youth and one-parent families. The course is divided into various themes which afford participants the opportunity to investigate the complex nature of the relationship between the individual, the family and the State. A different theme will be explored in depth each week and the underlying idea of human rights will be a common thread throughout. The course also explores the practice implications of policy provision and considers the role of social work and community interventions with respect to issues such as health, housing, and the asylum system. This course takes a critical approach in the analysis of the emergence and effectiveness of policy responses in contemporary society and in the societies of the future. The objectives of the course are to afford participants the opportunity to begin to associate different aspects of policy planning with the social and political problems they are intended to solve. The course will focus on using critical thinking skills and background theoretical knowledge to attempt to make sense of the opportunities and experiences of marginalized groups living in a complex and rapidly changing Ireland.

**SP220 Methods for Social and Political Science**

We begin this course by discussing what sociological and political data are and why we

should want to collect them. We then show students 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. Students will examine issues surrounding the interpretation of research and research accountability, as well as the writing of research. In the quantitative section of the course, students will be introduced to the basic requirements of survey research, including issues of operationalisation and sampling. The overall aim of the course is to enable students to carry out and present a research project. It will be assessed by project work and examination.

**EC268 Intermediate Macroeconomics**

This is an intermediate macroeconomics course dealing with the theory and practice of macroeconomics. It builds upon the concepts and principles covered in 1st Year Economics. The objective of the course is to understand, in more detail, the core models of (short-run) macroeconomic theory and to learn how these principles can be applied to various short-term policy issues, both domestically and in an international setting.

**LW405 Health Law and Policy**

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the study of aspects of health law and the related policies leading to an understanding of health law principles. The context of the development of aspects of this area of law, nationally and internationally, will be discussed through case analysis, legislative developments, and proposals for reform. The needs of society and of various groups within society as well as individual needs, will be discussed, examining the right to health, and the safeguards that exist in specific situations, the role of health professionals and of the State.

**EC259 Economics of Public Policy**

This course is designed to serve three interrelated goals. It provides the analytical foundations for an exploration of the appropriate balance between private and public provision in modern democratic economies. This requires prior examination of models of efficient allocation followed by an exploration of the economic rationale for government intervention. Theories of public production and bureaucracy are part of this exploration. Second, it examines the trade-off between efficiency and equity in the formulation and implementation of public policy. This requires consideration of theories of social justice and their application to real world decision-making in the modern welfare state. Finally, the course examines the practice of public policy, including an analysis of selected public expenditure programmes, preceded by a presentation of the theoretical foundations of cost benefit analysis.

**3BA PSP COURSE OUTLINES**

Third year students must take four compulsory courses each semester and two optional courses. Whilst there are no restrictions in principle in terms of what options you take, note that it may not always be possible to take all your preferred options, due to timetabling clashes. Also, the numbers in Political Science & Sociology options are capped, so you need to register with the School of Political Science & Sociology on Monday of Week One each semester. No School registration is required for Law or Economics modules, as numbers there are not capped. One way to decide which options you might take is to simply pick what seems most interesting or what you are good at – e.g. perhaps your marks in Law have always been higher than in Economics, or vice versa. However, you may also wish to choose options that examine a particular area from different perspectives, e.g. each of the three Schools involved with the BAPSP offers modules related to issues such as crime, work or the environment. A third possibility is to specialise in one of the particular streams, e.g. Economics, and to take only options offered by that School. This can be useful if you plan to specialise in a particular area later on. Finally, bear in mind when/how the option will be examined. If you take two year-long options, you may have a lot of exams at the end of the year. If you take four semesterised modules, you may have a lot of essays due in at the same time. Finally, students wishing to pursue postgraduate studies in Economics are advised to take EC363 Econometrics and at least two other options in Economics.

**SEMESTER I COMPULSORY COURSES**

**SP508 Theories of the Policy Process**

The aim of this course is to provide students with a broad theoretical and practical understanding of major theories used in the area of policy development. More specifically, the course will allow students to gain an in-depth appreciation of the field within which policy is formulated and the methods that influence its formulation. Each section of the course will begin by considering the theoretical framework of the methodology and will then operationalise it in relation to a specific area of Irish policy. Through examining a number of different theories, and their particular application within the Irish public policy arena through the use of case-studies, it is expected that students will develop a broad understanding of forces at play in specific policy fields, while also familiarising themselves with recent policy initiatives. The course will involve seminar sessions led by group presentations, a short written assignment and a written examination at the end of the semester which will account for 60% of the overall grade. On completion of this module students should be able to demonstrate:

**L1** a critical awareness of policy perspectives

**L2** an understanding of the institutional factors, which shape policy formulation and implementation

**L3** knowledge of how policy actors and forces have shaped the Irish policy process

**LW408 European Community Law I**

This course is an introduction to the role of the institutions of the European Communities in promoting European integration. Consideration is given in particular to the functions of the Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Justice. Comparative reference is made to the institutional development of other European organisations, such as the Council of Europe.

**EC425 Topics in Microeconomics**

This module provides an introduction to the central concepts of non-cooperative game theory and social choice theory. On completion of this course, students should be able to have a basic understanding of important concepts such as Nash equilibrium, normal form and extensive form games, dynamic games, subgame perfect equilibrium, repeated games, Arrow’s impossibility theorem, Sen’s impossibility theorem, the Gibbard-Satterthwaite theorem, strategic voting, strategy-proof mechanisms and demand-revealing processes.

**SP404 Development and Change**

This course provides a critical introduction to the sociology of development. We begin with the meaning of ‘development’, looking at different ways of defining and measuring ‘progress’. We examine the different priorities that are expressed, contrasting, economistic, humanistic and environmental dimensions. The course provides a historical overview of development theories and locates the emergence of these theories within the historical and geopolitical context. The main perspectives covered are: 1)Classical/Neoliberal perspectives, 2) Structuralist/Neomarxist perspectives; 3) Alternative/Ethical perspectives including Basic Needs, Human Development, Rights based Development and Sustainable Development. We will explore these contrasts with reference to a number of major development issues, examining the implications for policy and public action. The main issues covered will be: 1) Agriculture and food; 2) Debt and financing; 3) The environment; 4) War and militarization. These issues will help us to illustrate and critically debate the different theoretical approaches, with examples from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Ireland.

**SEMESTER II COMPULSORY COURSES**

**EC386 Public Economics**

This is an undergraduate course in public economics for final year students. This course uses economic analysis to examine the role of government in the economy. The class covers the traditional topics of equity and efficiency but also emphasizes more recent developments in information, public choice and political economy. By the end of this class you should have a solid understanding of some of the most important concepts and theories in public economics.

**SP305 Comparative Public Policy**

The course is divided into two parts. The first part deals with a range of theoretical issues involved in the comparative analysis of public policy. The second part of the course deals with a number of specific policy areas, exploring similarities and differences in how these have been handled in different national contexts.

**SP514 Policy Seminar**

The policy seminar is designed to allow students to explore policy issues in a focused manner, and to encourage them to draw together elements from the economics, law, sociological and political parts of the BA (PSP) programme. The seminars are not lectures, and their success will depend on preparation and participation by students. A 2-hour written examination will take place at the end of Semester 2. The exam paper will be divided into three sections (one each for Law, Economics and Political Science & Sociology), and students will be required to answer one question from each part.

**LW412 European Community Law II**

This course deals with the substantive law of the European Communities. Particular emphasis is given to the basic freedoms of Community law: the free movement of goods; the free movement of persons; the freedom of establishment; the freedom to provide services; the free movement of capital; and the free movement of payments. Consideration is also given to Community policies such as competition policy, the common agricultural policy, regional policy, industrial policy and social policy. Comparative reference is made to the policies of other European organisations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

**TIMETABLES**

Timetables for BA Public and Social Policy students are made available through Blackboard.