



Department of Sociology Maynooth University

## FIRST YEAR POLITICS

Bachelor of Arts in Politics

First year handbook, 2017- 2018

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### *Introduction to Maynooth University*

One of four constituent universities in the federal National University of Ireland system, the University traces its origins directly to the foundation in 1795 of St Patrick's College, Maynooth. It is Ireland's second oldest university institution and is located in a town which combines its medieval origins with its present-day status of a modern, dynamic centre on the metropolitan fringe of Dublin, adjacent to the Irish and European headquarters of many multi-national high technology industries. Its historical past includes its location as the site of Silken Thomas' rebellion, involvement in the events of 1798 and the headquarters of the Catholic hierarchy. These days political and community life in North Kildare is undergoing a rapid transformation with the rise of new issues and new kinds of political engagement.

Maynooth University has a reputation for providing a student friendly campus environment with world-class teaching and research facilities. The University has over 10,000 students and a range of disciplines, which include the traditional humanities, music, education, science, computing and electronic engineering. The student body is drawn from all over Ireland and from more than 20 overseas countries. This diversity is enhanced by significant numbers of mature students and dedicated access programme entrants. Maynooth University offers a unique environment for learning, combining the best of its academic and cultural traditions with a modern and innovative approach to teaching and research.

As the Republic's only rural university location, Maynooth offers a unique combination of a relaxed and friendly social environment with a high intellectual standard of research and learning, all located within a half-hour train journey of Dublin city centre, giving access to all the advantages of the metropolitan location.

### *Introducing the Department*

Welcome to the Sociology department at Maynooth University - a centre of teaching, research and public debate. The Department of Sociology has a long history, going back to 1930, when a Chair of Sociology was established in Maynooth College. In 2012 we celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formal founding of our department; President Michael D. Higgins, himself a noted sociologist, paid tribute to the department and its role in revolutionising the study of society in Ireland, in a wide-ranging speech at the university in March 2012. Sociology is a varied subject, with almost any area of social life open to sociological analysis. It is more a way of thinking about the world than the study of any specific area: the university's Departments of Applied Social Studies and Anthropology both developed out of the Department of Sociology, and our offering of a course in Politics is in line with this.

For C. Wright Mills the 'sociological imagination' enabled us to link the individual and society, biography and history, personal feelings and political choices, showing how 'private troubles' are shaped by 'public issues'. The department has always had a strong interest in political sociology, with particular research strengths including the politics of culture and the politics of global change. The initiative to develop a specific BA in politics draws on these strengths, with the input of new staff recruited specifically for the programme.

The Department's commitment to active citizenship and public sociology has been a long-standing one, and staff members have a wide range of practical experience as well as research-based understanding of politics. This has included involvement in social movements, community activism and issue-based campaigning; media work and public debate; active involvement in political parties, trade unions and lobbying groups; development and human rights work; local government and social

partnership. Most of us have experience of living and working in other countries, and bring this to bear on our work.

The department consists of eighteen lecturing staff and two senior executive assistants. We have over 900 undergraduate students, taking degrees in Arts, Social Science, European Studies, Politics, Media Studies and Community Studies. Each year the Department offers at least one Taught M.A. courses the newest of which is our MA (Internet & Society). There are currently 25 research postgraduate students in the department. Our student body is very diverse, with a wealth of different experiences and interests and a strong tradition of political involvement, including development work, peace activism, environmental campaigning, international relations, EU integration, the global justice movement and fair trade organising.

The Department of Sociology is located in Auxilia (near the back of the John Hume building). The department office is in Room 1.5 in Auxilia (first floor). It is accessible by stairs and by lift.

There is a Departmental post-box on the ground floor in Auxilia, where you will be required to submit administrative forms and essays. For more information on the Department and on the individual research interests of members of staff please consult our web page at: <http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology>

Please also note that an outline of all the university supports you might need to access is available [here](#).

Please check on the Sociology notice boards in Auxilia for details of forthcoming events. You may also access information on forthcoming events on the Departmental website. <http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology>

This year will also see regular seminars organised by the *Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies* ([www.maynoothuniversity.ie/Europe](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/Europe)) which is an inter-disciplinary group focused on contemporary Europe. The Centre was launched in November 2008 and has quickly established itself as one of the leading academic venues for discussion of European affairs; please check the website regularly for updates on seminars and other events.

Look out also the activities of the *Network for Power, Politics and Society* (<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/network-politics-power-and-society>) which brings together the considerable expertise in these areas within the department of Sociology and the wider university and will hold seminars and public events on a regular basis. The Centre's website can be accessed through the website of the department.

### *The BA in Politics*

This degree allows students to explore the different ways that politics shapes our lives, the various forms that politics takes, and how politics is organised differently around the world. The key distinguishing feature of Politics at Maynooth University is that we expand the study of politics beyond the conventional focus on *formal political institutions* to include *political sociology* and a distinctive focus on *active citizenship*. Adding these extra pillars to the politics degree means that the BA Politics at Maynooth includes, but goes beyond, the traditional study of parties and elections to include a much broader variety of aspects of politics (including public opinion, community activism, the media, NGOs, new social movements, trade unions etc.). The three interwoven strands of the course are outlined below.

## Political institutions

The study of politics begins with the effort to understand political institutions - the formal mechanisms and instruments employed at local, regional, national and international level, to give expression to the political character of collective (human) groupings. Political institutions are formed by and embedded in specific cultural and historical practices. They reflect both traditional or local sensibilities and important external influences on political ideas and societal organization.

The core courses which you will take will focus on the most important political institutions to be found at local, regional, national and international level, the actors who are most active within them, and the activities which these institutions engage in. These institutions range from local bodies such as Kildare County Council to national institutions such as the Dáil and Oireachtas Committees, to regional groupings such as the European Union, and international organizations such as the IMF, United Nations and NATO.

The study of political institutions is vital to gaining an understanding of how individuals are represented within different types of political systems. It also reveals much about where power is concentrated in given political settings, and how specific political actors and social agents interact to produce policy outcomes. We hope that the study of a diverse range of political institutions, from the local to the global, will provide students with a sophisticated understanding of how politics is constituted in the formal sense in different parts of the world.

## Political sociology

Political sociology is the study of political inequalities and the connection between political and other forms of inequalities across class, gender and ethnicity. Political sociology is therefore interested in power, who

has it and how it is used. It includes a broad range of approaches which study the relationship between politics and society. It studies how underlying social contexts of class, gender and ethnicity impacts on political actors, pressure groups and social movements and how, in turn, politics shapes social structures.

It examines the central issue of how power is distributed between the state and society, how it is institutionalised and how it is exercised. It examines competing definitions of power including traditional theories of elite power, pluralist power and corporatist power as well as theories of informal power including citizenship, participative democracy, social capital and social movements. In exploring the interdependent relationship between the state and society it examines various arguments for the state to have a more minor or more central role in modern societies.

The modern evolution of the state and society has been made more complex by globalization and the course examines how globalization might impact on state - society relationships, whether it might, for example, diminish the power of the state, whether it gives rise to new forms of power in the shape of new social movements and how it might impact on citizens capacity to be active shapers of their own environment.

**Politics and active citizenship: a study, a practice and a career**

This course is aimed towards those interested in the process of politics and active citizenship - creative involvement in political life whether at a community, national or global level. We have a quota for mature students and many students will already be active in this way.

Students are likely to go on to find work in areas such as NGOs, political research, activism, diplomacy and international affairs, journalism,

development work, community work, public policy, human rights, or other forms of active involvement. Others again may enter electoral and party politics or the institutions of the European Union. Indeed the evidence shows that quite a large number of our BA Politics graduates in recent years have gone on to work for TDs, MEPs or political parties in Dublin and/or Brussels

In first year, you will go on field trips (including the Oireachtas) enabling you to experience a range of political activity, from formal organisations to public protest. The second-year "Active citizenship and participation" core module includes a placement element geared towards active engagement in some area of everyday political life and a fieldtrip to Northern Ireland to examine the roots and legacy of the Troubles. Another fieldtrip to visit the European Union decision-making bodies in Brussels is available to students taking EU politics. Your dissertation will also often involve you in a degree of practical work, and may well grow out of your placement. Finally, it is planned to organise an extended field trip or summer school in a European city as an elective module which would substitute for one of your final-year electives (including prior preparation and a subsequent essay).

These elements are an invaluable way of gaining practical experience and developing your own direction for political involvement as well as possible future careers. For students with prior experience, they offer the chance to reflect in a more systematic way on their own everyday practice, and to bring research and theoretical skills to bear on the area.

A degree in politics will also provide the knowledge, theories and research skills that will serve students well in any career. The degree equips the graduate with various skills, including the abilities to understand topical issues, to investigate public life through systematic

research, to analyse and present information, and to apply these skills to a wide variety of societies around the world.

The course gives you a good overall grounding in key areas of political understanding: active citizenship, formal politics, political theory, political sociology and research methods. You can develop each of these to a greater or lesser extent although you will engage seriously with each pillar of the degree.

### First year

In the first year, students take politics along with three other arts subjects (excluding English and Mathematical Studies). You may also substitute a Critical Skills module for one of those three subjects. First year modules introduce students both to the main concepts in the study of politics, both within the conventional institutional frameworks and within the broader perspectives of political sociology, and to the theory and practice of active citizenship. These topics are covered empirically with modules tackling how politics works in Ireland (North and South) and a choice of either comparative European or global politics. Modules are taught through lectures and a tutorial programme. In first year, students are given the concepts and knowledge to develop their "political imagination" - the way that we think about and understand politics.

### Second and third year

In second year, students take politics along with one of their two other first-year arts subjects. You may take Politics as a Major, Double Honours, or Minor subject along with another subject. In this year, you will deepen your theoretical understanding of politics as well as acquiring the tools to research politics effectively. A key element of this year is the practice placement, offering students the chance to move from observation and analysis of politics to hands-on experience and reflection on that experience. For those studying the EU the opportunity to participate in a fieldtrip to the EU is offered. In second

year, students take another required module on society and state and develop their own research into political life, using the research methods learned in second year to write an original research thesis, supported with departmental tutorials. In second and third year, students can take a variety of other optional (elective) modules, with different options being offered each year. Relevant modules from other departments may also be taken.

### BA (International) degree

A BA (International) degree will be an option for students who meet the standard required in their first year examination in arts for admission to second year. The programme aims to enrich the educational experience of the individual student and provide those who successfully complete it with an enhanced degree. This is a four-year degree programme, the third year of which will be spent studying at a university abroad. The modules taken abroad will normally be divided equally between the two subjects studied during second year. Students interested in pursuing the BA (international) degree apply to the relevant Heads of Department in March of their second year.

We encourage students considering B.A. International to take language options within the politics degree structure or taking another language as one of their other course choices. For students restricted to English-language environments, possibilities include the UK, Northern Ireland, the United States, Canada, Bulgaria, Poland and the Netherlands. For those able to operate in other linguistic environments, the possibilities include literally the rest of the world. Over time the Department will develop structured links with particular institutions to facilitate this option further.

## *What do I have to do?*

### Teaching and assessment

Modules are taught by lectures and workshops led by lecturers. You will have on average four contact hours per week of Politics in first year (along with your other two courses), and six contact hours per week of Politics in second and third year (along with your other courses). Modules are assessed by a mixture of exams at the end of each semester and continuous assessment during the semester.

### Study skills and tutorials

University-level work, and the study of politics in particular, places a high demand on your study skills. It is likely that you will need to learn a range of new study skills, and we will be focussing on these in the first-year modules. In second year, the tutorial programme supports the research component and helps you develop the skills you need to research political life.

### Placement programme and assessment

The "active citizenship" element of the course is not only theoretical, it is also practical. The practice placements in second year are both a key learning opportunity and a chance to develop your future career, finding out what your strengths and preferences are and making contacts which may be useful for your future working life. In the "Active citizenship and participation" module, you are expected to do an average of 3 contact hours per week over 10 weeks, working in the political world (e.g. in an NGO, a community group, the local branch of a political party, a newsletter, a grassroots campaign, or other group or organisation as agreed with the placement coordinator). These placements are supervised by a permanent member of the organisation you are working with, and are assessed on the basis of a "learning journal" which you keep

during your time and submit at the end of the placement. Placements may either be organised by yourself or by the placement coordinator.

#### Dissertation, workshop and assessment

In third year you carry out a substantial piece of independent research on a topic of your own choosing. This is supported by a one-hour workshop which runs throughout the year. Often this dissertation is based on an organisation or group you have worked with in a placement capacity, and may be exploring some information which is of interest to that organisation or group. The dissertation counts for a significant proportion of your final marks, and is assessed on the basis of an essay submitted at the end of the first semester and the dissertation itself.

#### The international and comparative approach

Running through all the different themes and years of the course is an emphasis on the use of historical and comparative analysis as a tool for understanding: setting our own time in perspective so as to get away from assumptions that the way things are now is the way they have always been and always will be; comparing our own experience with the experience of other countries and regions in order to stand back from what is most familiar to us; and developing the linguistic skills needed to go below the surface of the official documents which are routinely translated into English. The course expresses this in modules which focus on comparative and historical methods, on world-systems analysis and the exploration of politics in other countries, but also in many modules which take a comparative and / or historical approach to their subject matter. The options of the BA (International), of taking language options and of the international field trip / summer school are all available for students who wish to pursue this in more depth.

#### *The fundamental pillars of the degree*

The course is centred around a number of key themes: active citizenship, formal politics, political sociology, political theory and research

methods. These are among the core modules offered; you can take each of them further by choosing options in this area. The distinctive feature of the degree is this breadth of vision of the study and practice of politics.

### Active citizenship

A focus on active citizenship - the ways in which ordinary people take part in politics, often in opposition to the official structures - is a distinctive feature of Politics at Maynooth University. This course introduces you to the theory and practice of active citizenship, supporting this with practice placements in voluntary, community and other political organisations as well as with a range of electives exploring the area in more detail.

### Formal politics

The study of formal political institutions is a core part of any politics course. This course introduces you to the theory and practice of how institutions such as elections, political parties, governments or the European Union work, backed up with electives covering the practical aspects of formal politics and the way it works in a range of countries and areas.

### Political sociology

Although formal institutions are important, they are by no means the only part of politics. Power, organisation and decision-making are central parts of the informal politics that underpins much of the everyday world, from residents' associations to national partnership agreements and from the study of the workplace to the study of crime and punishment. This theme draws on the Sociology Department's existing strength in political sociology, offering a wide range of electives as well as modules on specific countries and themes.

## Political theory

Political theory is both the attempt to understand how the political world works and the debate over how it should work; as such it inevitably goes deep and raises the big questions - of freedom, justice, how we should live and who should decide. This course explores classic and contemporary political theorists as well as electives in a range of areas.

## Research methods

This theme gives you the core tools for researching politics. In second year you take either survey or fieldwork research methods, while in third year a range of methods electives are available. Your final-year dissertation is organised around an original, independent piece of political research that you design and carry out in consultation with an experienced supervisor.

### Alternative 'streams' within the degree

These are suggested combinations of elective modules which you can choose in order to develop a strength in an area which you are particularly interested in: global citizenship (the politics of global change), cultural citizenship (aspects of politics and culture), and social citizenship (aspects of social policy). These are not formalised options, but suggestions from the Department as to which courses are more closely interconnected. Modules offered may vary according to resources and staff availability.

#### Global Citizenship: the Politics of Global Change

Politics is increasingly global, from the construction of inequality via public issues such as the environment, human rights or corruption through to the politics of the 'New World Order' and the complications presented by climate change. This stream offers a range of electives tackling these topics at a global level.

### Cultural Citizenship: Aspects of Politics and Culture

The Sociology Department has a long-standing focus on the politics of culture, taken up in this stream with an exploration of issues such as popular music, technology, the role of the media and collective memory.

### Social Citizenship: Aspects of Social Policy

Social policy is a key aspect of politics, and this stream offers a range of options for those interested in pursuing the topic further. In particular social policy is analyzed from a broad perspective which seeks to combine economic, political and governance issues with a rigorous grounding in social theory.

### Language Options

The course includes the option to study a number of languages which can be stepping-stones to a BA International or to further study in or about the countries where these languages are spoken.

### Cognate disciplines and course combinations

We recommend combining this course with subjects such as European Studies, Sociology, History, Anthropology, Geography, Philosophy or Applied Social Studies. It can also work well with a linguistic / international subject such as French, German, Spanish, or Basque. This course **cannot** be combined with English or Mathematical Studies.

### **Changes to the Maynooth Curriculum, 2016-17**

Maynooth University introduced a new flexible curriculum in 2016-17. Students are presented at registration with a range of options open to them. These include:

- \*opportunity to study up to four subjects in First Year
- \*optional critical skills courses in first year;
- \* opportunity to pursue double major, major-minor in Politics in second and third year

\* optional second year elective streams to broaden and enhance your intellectual development

Students will be able to go back into the online registration system and change their selection of pathway and modules during the first three weeks of the first semester.

As far as possible, the timetable has been constructed to ensure that there are no clashes for compulsory modules in allowed subject combinations and pathways, while seeking to maximise availability to students of a range of optional modules. Nevertheless, not all options will be available to all students, and some scheduling clashes will occur.

Once a student has made an online selection of subjects and modules, they will have to check whether the selection is fully compatible with the lecture timetable (i.e., no clashes). As soon as they have completed their choices, their personal timetable will be available to view via the online viewer at <https://apps.maynoothuniversity.ie/timetable>. If there are any clashes of scheduling of the optional modules selected then students will be able to log in again to the online registration system and revise their choices.

Two detailed subject guides for first years can be downloaded from the student records webpages at (forgive the lengthy url):

MH101 -

[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/MH101%20first%20year%20guide\\_Final%20%28Unthink%29\\_0.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/MH101%20first%20year%20guide_Final%20%28Unthink%29_0.pdf)

All other first year programmes -  
[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Except\\_101\\_First\\_Year%20guide\\_Final%20%28Unthink%29\\_0.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Except_101_First_Year%20guide_Final%20%28Unthink%29_0.pdf)

## Structure of the course

First semester	Second semester
<b>First Year</b>	
PO151 Introduction to Political Ideas (7.5 credits)	PO152 Introduction to Political Institutions (7.5 credits)
<b>Second Year</b>	
PO205 Democracy and active citizenship (5 credits)	PO202 Active citizenship and participation (5 credits; includes placement)
PO222 Researching Politics (plus workshops) (5 credits)	PO304 Society and State (5Credits)
Elective Modules: Select <b>one</b> module from the following:  SO208 Media & Society (5 credits)  SO221 Marx on Ireland (5 credits)  PO210 Politics in Crisis (5 credits)  PO305 Politics of the EU (5 credits)	Elective Modules: Select <b>one</b> module from the following:  SO214 Northern Irish Society (5 credits)  SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action (5 credits)  PO203 International Relations (5 credits)  PO313 Power, Politics and Society in the Americas (5 credits)
<b>Third Year</b>	
PO303 Special Topic Research Project (2.5 credits)  Choose one of: SO204A Survey Research methods OR SO205A Fieldwork Methods OR PO309 Files and Documents (all 2.5 credits)	PO303 Special Topic Research Project (5 credits)  PO301 International Public Policy (5 credits)
Select 1 module from:  SO319 Revolutions (5 credits) SO338 Sex, Law and Society (5 credits) PO311 Politics of Ethnic Conflict (5 credits) PO312 Gender and Politics (5 credits) GY327 Environmental Politics (5 credits) GY347 Electoral Geography (5 credits)	Select <u>2</u> modules from:  SO311 Sociology of Development (5 credits) SO324 Threats, Risks, Conflicts & Human Security (5 credits) PO302 Irish Public Policy (5 credits) PO314 Policies and Policy-Making in the European Union (5 credits) KD311 Africa and the International System (5 credits)

## Department of Sociology

### First Year Politics Timetable 2017-2018

#### *Semester 1*

*18th September 2017 - 15th December 2017*

<b>COMPULSORY MODULES</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Day/Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
PO151 Introduction to Political Ideas Dr. Barry Cannon	7.5	Mon 11am Tues 5pm Fri 9am	AX1 AX1 AX1

#### *Semester 2*

*29th January 2018 - 4th May 2018*

<b>COMPULSORY MODULES</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Day/Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
PO152 Introduction to Political Institutions Dr. Mary Murphy	7.5	Tues 10am Tues 5pm Fri 9am	AX1 CB7 CB7

### *First year modules*

In your first year, you take two politics modules, one in each semester. In the first semester, you take PO151. In the second semester, you take PO152.

**Introduction to Political Institutions** (PO152, Dr. Mary P. Murphy) This module introduces students to government and politics, and focuses on the key institutions to be found in modern political systems, what they contribute to processes of governance, and how power is distributed across and among those institutions. It interrogates the power of the principal political actors in Irish and European contexts and provides a comparative theoretical approach to understanding the role, function and relative power of these institutional sites. It encourages students to think about how institutional design impacts on politics and policy-making. Studying political institutions reveals much about where power is concentrated and how political actors interact to produce policy outcomes and shape the world we live in. Political institutions are thus formal mechanisms and instruments employed to manage power relations and enable decision making at local, regional, national and international level.

By formal political institutions we refer to, for example, constitutions and laws, executives and legislatures, parties and elections. These institutions regulate, channel and shape interests, identities and ideologies in political communities. Yet they also reflect, and often stabilise existing power relations. Politics and political systems have been characterised in recent

years by distinct modes of flux, with an increasingly discernible mood which political scientists refer to as 'anti-politics', 'anti-system' and 'anti-establishment'. The most obvious manifestation of that mood has been the drop in electoral support for established parties of the centre, a corresponding rise in support for populist right and left wing alternatives and, in some jurisdictions, significant protest movements. This course will highlight these important contemporary phenomena as it evaluates the significance of political institutions in contemporary politics.

### **Introduction to Political Ideas (PO151, Dr. Barry Cannon)**

The main aims of this course are to introduce students to some of the principal ideas which inform how politics is practiced, and relating these to the contemporary context in order to understand better how they work. The course will introduce, examine and interrogate three basic ideas central to politics: power, liberty and justice. With the first, a central concern in politics is the balance between the power of the state and that of the individual. But are all individuals equally powerful? And if not, what implications might this have for the power of the State? Using general readings on theories of power, and specific readings from key theorists Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and John Locke (1632-1704), we will examine a range of contemporary issues. The second objective of the course is to examine the issue of liberty - a key concept in political theory. When are we truly free? To help answer this question we will look at two opposing viewpoints, John Stuart Mill's (1806-1873) classic liberal

conception and Karl Marx's (1818-1883) critique of that perspective. Finally, we will examine the notion of justice looking at three radically different conceptions of it; first the liberal tradition of John Rawls (1921-2002), then the libertarian tradition as exemplified by Robert Nozick (1938-2002) and finally the socialist tradition, represented by G.A. Cohen (1941-2009). The central issue in our enquiry is the balance between individual rights and responsibilities versus those of the collective, taking the issue of taxation as a contemporary example to explore this dichotomy. In this way students will have a broad conception of three main ideas guiding the practice of politics, and the issues and dilemmas which these ideas present as they are exercised in contemporary life.

## *Assessment schedule*

PO151 (100% continuous assessment)

PO152 (60% continuous assessment and 40% exam)

Staff teaching on the first-year modules and their research interests

**Dr Barry Cannon** joined Maynooth in 2013 and specializes in democratization and development, particularly in conflict areas in the Latin America region. Since graduating with a PhD from DCU in 2003 he worked for Irish development cooperation NGO, Comhlámh, on an Irish Aid funded project on international volunteering. From 2007 he worked in DCU on an Irish Aid-funded project working with civil society organizations and universities in Central America (Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras) and researched with Dr. Mo Hume of the University of Glasgow on democratization in the three project countries. From 2010-2013 he worked on an Irish Research Council (IRC) funded project reviewing the right in Latin America, focusing on Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela. He has published widely including *Hugo Chávez and the Bolivarian Revolution: Populism and Democracy in a Globalised Age* (MUP, 2009), *Civil Society and the State in Left-led Latin America: Challenges and Limitations to Democratization* (Zed: 2012), co-edited with Prof. Peadar Kirby and *The Right in Latin America* (Routledge, 2016), and in academic journals, including *Democratization, Development in Practice, Irish Political Studies, Latin American Politics and Society*, and *Third World Quarterly*.

**Dr Mary P. Murphy** is a senior lecturer in Irish Politics and Society in the Department of Sociology. She has research interests in gender and social security, globalisation and welfare states, the politics of redistribution and power and civil society. She has published widely, most recently *Careless to Careful Activation: Making Activation Work for Women* (Dublin NWCI 2012) and *Towards the Second Republic: Irish Politics after the Celtic Tiger* (with Peadar Kirby, Pluto Ireland, 2011). She is an active advocate for social justice and gender equality, a member of the national advisory group on tax and social welfare, a Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and a regular media commentator. Her work has also appeared in journals such as *Administration*, the *Irish Journal of Sociology*, *New Political Economy*, and *Policy and Politics*. She is also a regular contributor to Irish television and radio on issues of social justice including RTE *Prime Time*, RTE *The Late Debate*, RTE *Morning Ireland*, TV3 *Tonight with Vincent Browne*, and many other outlets.

**Dr Peter Murray:** Dr Murray's principal research and teaching interests are political mobilisation and the growth of the modern state; industry, work and technological change; and health, illness and health care. His current research project is entitled *Europe's Productivity Drive after World War II and the Making of Contemporary Ireland:*

The channelling of US funds into programmes to increase productivity was a central feature of the reconstruction of Western Europe after 1945. This began under the Marshall Plan and was subsequently sustained through the 1950s and into the 1960s by the establishment of a European Productivity Agency (EPA) within the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC - the predecessor of today's OECD). Supported by EPA in its early years, and securing domestic state

support after the EPA's disbandment, the Irish productivity drive initiated new forms of joint action by government, business and unions. It significantly influenced the redefinition of the relationship between education and industrial policies. It also provided the first source of sustained support for social science research. In these different ways it contributed to shaping the institutional structures of contemporary Ireland.

**Prof John O'Brennan:** is senior lecturer and Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration. His research interests are divided between the process and politics of EU enlargement and EU foreign policy on the one hand, and Ireland's relationship with the European Union on the other. He has published a number of books and journal articles on EU enlargement including *The Eastern Enlargement of the European Union* (Routledge, 2006) and *National Parliaments within the Enlarged European Union* (Routledge, 2007). His articles have appeared in the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, the *Dublin Review of Books*, *European Foreign Affairs Review*, *European Political Science*, *Global Society*, the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Parliamentary Affairs*, and the *Journal of European Integration* amongst others. He is also a frequent contributor to both the national and international media on EU issues, including the *BBC World Service*, *RTE Six One News*, *RTE The Late Debate*, *The Marian Finucane Show*, *The Sean O'Rourke Show*, *TV3 Tonight with Vincent Browne*, *Newstalk*, *Die Welt*, the *Guardian*, the *Irish Times*, *The Irish Examiner*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Open Democracy*, and the *Scotsman* amongst others.

A more general listing of Sociology department staff interests follows:

Urban sociology, changing cityscapes, gentrification, place exploration, visual sociology, class and community (Mary Benson).

Social stratification in education and the labour market spanning the primary, second-level and higher education sectors as well as post-secondary education and training; transitions between education and the labour market and the evaluation of educational interventions (Delma Byrne).

Democratization and development, in conflict areas in the Latin America region, New Right in Latin America (Barry Cannon)

Collective memory; cross-national variation in religious belief and practice; history of Irish Sociology (Brian Conway)

Urban transformation and change; migratory processes and experiences; Public cultures (Mary P. Corcoran)

Social theory; ethnicity and nationalism; popular culture including popular music; development policy and practices (Colin Coulter)

Social movements; the movement against capitalist globalisation; working class community politics; new religious movements and participatory research strategies (Laurence Cox)

Civil society mobilization at national and international level; NGOs within the European Union; the Irish Women's Movement; EU policy and coalition building in the civil society sector (Pauline Cullen)

Research interests include Human Security, Gender and Development Governance, and Social Sustainability (Honor Fagan)

Gender; reproduction and social change; families and households; comparative-historical sociology (Jane Gray)

Globalisation, technology and society; political economy of the media; media audiences and cultures; information economies and societies (Aphra Kerr)

Race and ethnicity; education; gender; beauty; children; qualitative methods; interracial marriage and multiracial people. (Rebecca King-O'Riain)

Research interests include globalisation; welfare states; mediating domestic policy reform; local governance; politics of welfare to work; poverty and citizenship (Mary P. Murphy)

Political mobilisation and the growth of the modern state; industry, work and technological change; health, illness and healing. (Peter Murray)

Work, inequality and political economy; The Celtic Tiger and its aftermath; state and society; governance, space, place and globalisation; information economy and society (Sean Ó Riain)

Brexit and its implications for Ireland, The Process and Politics of EU Enlargement, The European Union and the Western Balkans, European

Neighbourhood Policy, Ireland and the European Union, Ireland and Brexit; Ethno cultural approaches to International Relations, the EU and Russia/Turkey (John O'Brennan)

Research interests revolve around the sociology of personal life specifically the study of the family, sexual citizenship, sex work, gay and lesbian studies, social movements and qualitative research methods (Paul Ryan)

The structure of modernity; the heritage industry; the social construction of landscape and environment; visual sociology and historical sociology. (Eamonn Slater)

## 7. Key Dates PO151 Term 1 module:

ASSIGNMENT	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	DUE	DELIVERY
<i>Review Paper 1: Ideologies (500 words)</i>	1	15	Oct 23	Turnitin and Assignments Box
<i>Review Paper 2: Ideas (500 words)</i>	1	15	Nov 27	Turnitin and Assignments Box
<i>Essay (2000 words)</i>	1	50	Dec 4	Turnitin and Assignments Box
<i>Debates</i>	1	10	Nov 27	Presentation emailed to lecturer
<i>Tutorials</i>	8	10	As directed by tutor	Tutorial Assessment
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>		

## 7. Key Dates continued

### 1st Semester :

Mon Sept 18	Lectures commence
Thursday Sept 21	Sign-up to tutorial via PO151 Moodle page
Monday 2 Oct	tutorials begin - run for 8 weeks
Mon Oct 30 - Fri Nov 3	Study week - no lectures/ tutorials
Fri Dec 1	Tutorial Programme ends
Fri Dec 15	Conclusion of first semester classes
Fri Jan 5	First semester examinations begin

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:

Mon Jan 29	Lectures commence
Monday Feb 12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester tutorial begins
Mon March 19 - Fri March 23	Study week no lectures/tutorials
Mon March 26 - Friday March 30	Easter break
Friday April 20	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester tutorial ends
Fri May 4	Conclusion of second semester classes
Fri May 11	Second semester examinations
Mon July 30	Deadline for Repeat candidates to submit Continuous Assessment work

## Consultation

It is vital that we are made aware, as soon as possible of any difficulties you may have in relation to your work or with any aspect of the first year programme. If you have a problem or question which relates generally to the first year programme, or to your participation in it, please contact the year co-ordinator, Prof. John O'Brennan, Room 2.2, the Auxilia Building, Email: [john.obrennan@mu.ie](mailto:john.obrennan@mu.ie)

If you have a query in relation to a particular module, please contact the lecturer who is giving that course. Staff members are available for consultation at various hours during each week of term. Each staff member has consultation hours posted on his or her office door. Please try to attend at those hours. Alternatively, you may make an appointment by telephone, email, or by contacting Trish Connerty or Áine Edmonds, Sociology Department Executive Assistants, Room 1.5, the Auxilia Building, Tel: 708-3659. Email: [sociology.department@mu.ie](mailto:sociology.department@mu.ie)

In addition to consulting with individual lecturers or the first year coordinator, students may communicate with the Sociology Department through the Staff Student Consultative Committee. The purpose of this body is to provide a forum where the concerns and interests of students can be raised. The committee consists of the staff year co-ordinators and student representatives of the various years who will be elected by students after the beginning of term. BA Politics students will be represented on that committee by an elected representative.

Should you wish to raise a matter at the Staff-Student Consultative Committee you can do so in the following ways:

1. Talk to the staff member who has administrative responsibility for first year.

2. Talk to your first year student representative after he or she is elected.

### *Communications*

It is assumed that you will be present at all lectures, tutorials and other class meetings. It is also assumed that you will check the departmental noticeboards in the Auxilia Building once every two to three days. You are responsible for familiarising yourself with announcements or notices provided during periods of time that are absent from class or from campus. It is assumed that you check your MU email account every two to three days (even if you primarily use another email account) and that you check module moodle sites regularly.

### *Penalties for Late Work*

Where applicable, the following penalties apply. If coursework is submitted late, **10 marks** will be deducted. No coursework will be accepted 14 calendar days after the deadline. These penalties will apply except upon presentation of a medical certificate covering the relevant period or in other extremely extenuating circumstances, which must be communicated to, and accepted by, the lecturer/tutor prior to, or immediately after, the relevant deadline.

### *Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination*

Where applicable, Autumn repeat students may submit continuous assessment work by 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. **No continuous assessment work**

**will be accepted after this date.** If students do not submit by the deadline, the existing continuous assessment mark will be carried forward to the Autumn. This policy will apply except upon presentation of a medical certificate covering the relevant period or in other extremely extenuating circumstances, which must be communicated to, and accepted by, the lecturer/tutor prior to, or immediately after, the relevant deadline.

Students who are registered to repeat must have a returned mark for both continuous assessment and exam.

If they have already submitted C.A. the mark attained for that work will be carried forward toward the REPEAT. The student **MUST ALSO RE-SIT THE FORMAL EXAM IN AUGUST 2018.**

If they have not already submitted C.A. they must submit by July 30, 2018. The student **MUST ALSO RE-SIT THE FORMAL EXAM IN AUGUST 2018.**

In the next section of this handbook we provide some guidelines on essay submission and some notes on plagiarism. It is vital that you acquaint yourself with this information in advance of preparing and submitting work to the Department of Sociology. Additional support for essay writing will be made available through the tutorial programme.

### **Preparing and submitting an essay**

- 1) Essays should be typed, single-sided and double-spaced (about 8-10 pages).
- 2) Essays must be put in the Sociology Post Box (Ground Floor, the Auxilia Building) with a **pink cover sheet** attached on or before the

deadline date. Supplies of cover sheets are available in the Sociology Department.

3) In your essay, you must refer to some reading material assigned for the module. Reading beyond the assigned material will be interpreted favourably only if you show clearly how it relates to themes and issues covered in the lectures.

4) Essays must be carefully referenced, showing the sources for any information or argument to which you refer. A list of references should be appended, detailing all sources referred to in the essay, including internet sources. **See guidelines below for how these should be presented.**

5) Please read and take note of the statement on plagiarism in this handbook.

6) You must keep an exact copy of each written assignment you submit to the department. Should your assignment be mislaid, you will be asked to provide a replacement copy.

### *Essay assessment*

The main criteria in assessing an essay are:

- level of understanding of the issue
- range and extent of readings and the use made of those readings
- logical development of the discussion
- awareness and discussion of alternative arguments or viewpoints
- clarity of the writing style

In general, a first class essay or paper will

- show an excellent understanding of the issue under discussion
- demonstrate an ability to use analytical reasoning
- draw on a good range of readings in developing the argument
- will be written in a clear and concise style.

An essay will fail if it does not address the question; reveals a fundamental lack of understanding of the issue; or is based on far too limited a range of readings.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves an attempt to use an element of another person's work, without appropriate acknowledgement in order to gain academic credit. It may include the unacknowledged verbatim reproduction of material, unsanctioned collusion, but is not limited to these matters; it may also include the unacknowledged adoption of an argumentative structure, or the unacknowledged use of a source or of research materials.

For example, when you directly copy another person's text without placing it in quotation marks and without acknowledging the source, you are plagiarising. The same is true when you present someone else's original idea, research or argument as though it were your own.

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. It reveals an unwillingness to think for oneself and is both unethical and illegal under copyright laws. Please do not make the mistake of assuming that we won't recognise plagiarised material. It is almost always possible to identify text that has been professionally copy-edited, or is different in style from your own. The direct copying of passages (including illustrations) from a book, an article or the Internet without adequate references is a serious breach of academic trust and practice. Submitting essays or projects written by anyone other

than yourself will also result in heavy penalties. As your final assessment is partly based on written assignments, plagiarism is equivalent to cheating at examinations.

Maynooth University considers plagiarism to be a serious academic misconduct, deserving of academic penalties. This document sets out the procedures for dealing with cases of plagiarism or suspected plagiarism in taught programmes of the University.

[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Plagiarism%20Sept%202015\\_0.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Plagiarism%20Sept%202015_0.pdf) Please note that when you submit work to the Department you sign a statement that your work is original and does not constitute plagiarism under the Maynooth University Policy on Plagiarism.

The Department of Sociology operates an "early warning" system. If a student is suspected of plagiarism or incorrect use of citation, the student is required to meet with the appropriate lecturer to discuss the problem. If this is a first instance, the student will receive a warning but will be allowed to resubmit their work.

Second and subsequent instances of this kind will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Maynooth University Policy on Plagiarism.

### Guidelines for citation

Books and articles read by you and referred to in your essay must be cited both in the essay itself and in the list of references at the end. **Only include in your list of references material you have read yourself and have referred to in your essay.** The usual procedure in sociology is to integrate references into the text itself.

Citations in the text include the last names of the authors and year of publication. Include page numbers when you quote directly from a work or refer to specific passages. Identify subsequent citations of the same source in the same way as the first. Examples follow:

If **author's name** is in the text, follow it with the publication year in parentheses: ...in another study by Duncan (1959).

If **author's name** is not in the text, enclose the last name and publication year in parentheses: ...whenever it occurred (Gouldner 1963).

**Pagination** follows year of publication after a colon; omit the space between the colon and the page number: ...Kuhn (1970:71)

Give both last names for **Joint Authors**: ...(Martin and Bailey 1988).

Quotations in the text begin and end with quotation marks; the author, date, and/or page numbers follow the end-quote and precede the period:

Wright and Jacobs (1994) found that "the variation in men's earnings relative to their peers in the labour force was not a reliable predictor of men's flight from feminising occupations"(p. 531).

OR

One study found that "the variation in men's earnings relative to their peers in the labour force was not a reliable predictor of men's flight from feminising occupations" (Wright and Jacobs 1994:531).

**Block Quotations** are presented in smaller type and are set off in a separate, indented paragraph. Block quotations should not be enclosed in quotation marks:

As stated by Wright and Jacobs (1994):

The variation in men's earnings relative to their peers in the labour force was not a reliable predictor of men's attrition. This finding is inconsistent with the prediction that declines in earnings are responsible for male flight from feminising occupations. (p. 531)

Reference List Formats: Some Examples

### **Books**

Garner, Steve. 2004. *Racism in the Irish Experience*. London: Pluto Press.

Berlin, Gordon and Andrew Sum. 1988. *Toward a More Perfect Union: Basic Skills, Poor Families and Our Economic Future*. New York: Ford Foundation.

### **Editions of Books**

McCullagh, Peter and John A Nelder. 1989. *Generalized Linear Models*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
London: Chapman and Hall.

### **Articles From Collected Works**

Clausen, John A. 1972. "The Life Course of Individuals." Pp. 457-514 in *Aging and Society*, vol. 3, *A Sociology of Age Stratification*, edited by M. W. Riley, M. Johnson and A. Foner. New York: Russell Sage.

### **Articles From Journals**

Goodman, Leo A. 1947a. "The Analysis of Systems of Qualitative Variables When Some of the Variables are Unobservable." *American Journal of Sociology*.  
79:179-209.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1947b. "Exploratory Latent Structure Analysis Using Both Identifiable and Unidentifiable Models." *Biometrika*. 61:215-231.

Conger, Rand D. Forthcoming. "The Effects of Positive Feedback on Direction and Amount of Verbalization in a Social Setting." *Sociological Perspectives*.

## Articles From Newspapers and Magazines

Guiles, Melinda and Krystal Miller. 1990. "Mazda and Mitsubishi-Chrysler Venture Cut Output, Following Big Three's Lead." *Wall Street Journal*, January 12, pp. A2, A12.

## Electronic Sources

### On-line journal article

Jacobson, John W., Jane A. Mulick, and Anne A. Schwartz. 1995. "A History of Facilitated Communication: Science, Pseudoscience and Anti-science." *American Psychologist* 50:750-65. Retrieved January 25, 2006 (<http://www.apa.org/journals/jacobson.html>).

### Newspaper article

Goldstein, Amy 1997. "Dying Patients' Care Varies Widely by Place, Study Says." *Washington Post*, October 15, P. A1. Retrieved October 15, 2006 (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/Wplate/1997-10/15/0661-101597-idx.html>).

### An Action Alert Posted on a Web Page

American Sociological Association. 1997. "Call for Help" (ASA Action Alert, October 15). Washington DC: American Sociological Association. Retrieved October 15, 2006 (<http://www.asanet.org/racecall.htm>).

Should you need more detailed information about citations, please consult

*The American Sociological Association Style Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 1997.*  
Washington DC: American Sociological Association, from which all of these  
excerpts were taken.

# ENJOY YOUR YEAR

September 2017