



Department of Sociology

Maynooth University

Bachelor of Arts in Politics

Second year handbook, 2017 - 2018

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## About the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University

We are delighted to welcome you back to the campus of Maynooth University to resume your studies in Politics. This handbook is intended to provide you with the information you need about our programme for the year and our policies: you should read it carefully at the outset and keep it for ongoing reference during the year.

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

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

Apart from the standard programme organised for each undergraduate year, you may be interested in other initiatives that are run by the Department of Sociology. Guest seminars take place on Thursdays during the teaching term in Postgraduate Room 2 in Auxilia (time and venue to be confirmed). These seminars are open to all staff and students on campus. As these seminars are designed to show case sociological and political science-based research they will be of particular interest to Politics students. Staff and postgraduate students also contribute to the seminar series. Please check on the Sociology notice boards in the Auxilia building for details of forthcoming events. You may also access information on forthcoming events on the Departmental website: <http://sociology.nuim.ie/> This year will also see 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 is one of Ireland's leading centres of research on the EU and Eurasia; please check the website regularly for updates on seminars and other events.

In addition to catering to over nine hundred students across our undergraduate programme, a further fifty students are engaged in postgraduate studies in the Department. We offer one taught M.A. programme: 'Internet and Society', as well as supervision for M.Litt and Ph.D degrees. The subject matter of sociology is diverse, and our programme reflects both this diversity and the varied interests of the Department's teaching staff.

If you are interested in considering studying Sociology and/or Politics at the postgraduate level, you may find useful the listing of the specialist areas of interest of the members of the Department below:

#### **B) Research Interests of Current Academic Staff**

**Dr. Mary Benson**

Urban sociology, changing cityscapes, gentrification, place exploration, visual sociology, class and community.

**Dr. Delma Byrne**

Research interests include 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.

**Dr. Barry Cannon**

Research interests are on Latin American politics, with particular expertise on Peru, Venezuela and Central America, especially on issues of democratization, power relations, Left and Right politics, civil society, and development. Current research focuses on opposition politics in Venezuela; right wing politics in Latin America; and, comparisons between collective reactions to crisis in Latin America and in Ireland and Europe.

**Dr. Brian Conway**

Research interests include sociology of religion; collective memory; history of Irish sociology. Current research focuses on examining Catholic public discourses and institutional arrangements, trends and patterns in the

**Catholic workforce, and religious institutional responses to scandal, all in comparative perspective.**

**Professor Mary P. Corcoran**

**Research interests include the Irish migratory experience, professional media cultures, and urban transformation and change. Professor Corcoran is currently engaged in European research on public private partnership in urban regeneration, and a study of social and civic life in the Irish suburbs.**

**Dr. Colin Coulter**

**Research interests include development studies, global politics, Marxism, ethnicity and nationalism, popular culture and in particular popular music and Northern Irish politics and society.**

**Dr. Laurence Cox**

**Research interests include social movement research (movement waves, alterglobalization and anti-austerity movements, European social movements, movement theorising, protest policing, knowledge and learning production in social movements, activist sustainability); Buddhist Studies (Buddhism and Ireland, early western Buddhists in Asia); new religious movements; sociology of knowledge and culture (history of ideas, sociology of intellectuals, counter culture); working-class studies (community organising, oral history); social theory (western Marxism, socialist feminism); and methodology (participatory action research, community research).**

**Dr. Pauline Cullen**

**Research interests include political sociology; gender inequality, social movements; civil society and state relations; nongovernmental organisations; social policy and European Integration; coalitions between diverse constituencies; activism on social rights beyond national settings.**

**Professor G. Honor Fagan**

**Research interests include Human Security, Gender and Development Governance, and Social Sustainability.**

**Dr. Jane Gray**

**Research and teaching interests include families and households, comparative-historical sociology, life history analysis. Her current research focuses on: life histories and social change in twentieth century Ireland; family and community, gender, household economies and social change.**

**Dr. Aphra Kerr**

**Teaching and Research interests focus on technology and media in society and digital sociology. Current research explores the implications of data driven digital media design, online community management work, production in the global digital games industry, and the rise of the 'indie'. Recent projects have explored broadcasting and diversity, innovation in animation companies, the design of future telecommunications network services and applications and gendered practices and representations in digital games culture.**

**Dr. Rebecca King Ó Riain**

**Research and teaching interests include globalization, emotions and technology; racial/ethnic beauty pageants; critical race theory; qualitative methods; interracial marriage and multiracial people. Her current research explores the 'Globalization of Love' through qualitative research with transnational, mixed couples and their children looking at uses of digital technology to create and maintain global emotional networks.**

**Dr. Mary P. Murphy**

**Research interests include the impact of globalisation on welfare states, the political mediation of social policy reform, local governance and institutional mechanisms to support social innovation, social inclusion and citizenship, gender and social welfare, commodification, conditionality and welfare to work policies.**

**Dr. Peter Murray**

**Research and teaching interests include political mobilisation and the growth of the modern state, industry, work and technological change, health, illness and healing.**

**Professor John O'Brennan**

**Research interests include the process and politics of European Union enlargement; the EU's relationship with the western Balkans and prospective enlargement to South Eastern Europe; the dynamics of EU external relations; EU-Russian relations; constructivist theories of International Politics; and the identity dimension to European integration. I am also very interested in Ireland's experience of European integration, its relationship with the European Union and the impact of Brexit on Ireland and the European Union.**

**Professor Seán Ó Riain**

**Research interests are in the sociology of work, economic sociology, comparative and global political economy and social inequality. Specific areas of interest include work organisation and workplace regimes; developmental states; the global knowledge economy; economic liberalism; changing European societies.**

**Dr. Paul Ryan**

**Research interests include masculinities, gay and lesbian studies, social movements and qualitative research methods specifically the use of life history**

**Dr. Eamonn Slater**

**Research interests include the structure of modernity, the heritage industry (including tourism), the social construction of landscape and the environment, visual sociology and historical sociology. All of these sociological areas are investigated with a special emphasis on Irish society.**

### **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 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 United Nations, the IMF 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.

The second-year "Active citizenship and participation" core module includes a placement element geared towards active engagement in some area of everyday political life. 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.

The Theme for Second Year is: 'Fundamentals of Politics'

Goal for the Year

To provide students with the crucial elements of the 'political science toolbox', that is, the different instruments employed by political scientists in their efforts to analyse and explain key phenomena within contemporary political and social life.

### Concepts and Theories

A core course on Political Theory provides a structured overview of major classical and contemporary theoretical approaches to politics and active citizenship. It builds on the modules offered in first year and asks students to engage at a deeper level with key theoretical approaches to politics.

### Placement

Students spend the second semester of second year in an external placement in a political organisation of their choice. This is a core part of the programme and allows students to observe how politics works at a practical and grassroots level.

**Department of Sociology**  
**Second Year Politics Timetable 2017-2018**

***Semester 1***

18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

<b>COMPULSORY MODULES:</b>	Credits	Day / Time	Venue
PO205 Democracy and Citizenship Dr. Barry Cannon	5	Thurs 12pm Fri 12pm	HH CB4
PO222 Researching Politics: an Introduction (plus tutorials) Dr. Paul Ryan	5	Tues 3pm Thurs 9am	JHL5 T10
<b>OPTIONAL MODULES:</b>  <b>Select <u>1</u> module from the following group:</b>			
SO208 Media & Society Dr. Aphra Kerr	5	Mon 3pm Wed 4pm	JHL7 CB6
SO221 Marx on Ireland Dr. Eamonn Slater		Tues 1pm Wed 9am	CB6 CB6
PO210 Politics in Crisis Tyler McDonough	5	Mon 10am Tues 10am	SE132 SE132
PO305 Politics of the EU Dr. John O'Brennan	5	Tues 12pm Wed 12pm	HF CB8

**Department of Sociology**  
**Second Year Politics Timetable 2017-2018**

***Semester 2***

29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

<b>COMPULSORY MODULES:</b>	Credits	Time / Date	Venue
PO202 Active Citizenship Placement Dr. Michelle Maher	5	Thurs 12pm Fri 12pm	SLT SLT
PO304 Society and State Prof. Seán Ó Riain	5	Tues 3pm Wed 12pm	IONSEM IONSEM
<b>OPTIONAL MODULES:</b>			
<b>Select <u>1</u> module from the following group:</b>			
SO214 Northern Irish Society Dr. Colin Coulter	5	Thurs 11am Thurs 2pm	CB9 JHL4
SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action Dr. Laurence Cox	5	Tues 10am Tues 4pm	HJ AX2
PO203 International Relations Dr. John O'Brennan	5	Tues 12pm Thurs 9am	HH CB4
PO313 Power, Politics and Society in the Americas Dr. Barry Cannon	5	Wed 10am Wed 2pm	Room 62 RH1.20

## **Module Descriptions**

### **PO205 Democracy and Citizenship First Semester / Credits: 5**

Democracy is often exclusively associated with elections, political parties and parliaments and associated bodies - that is the formal or institutional aspects of democracy. However, democracy can also be viewed from a substantive perspective, that is how the citizen experiences the democracy in which she or he lives. In this case democracy can be examined and evaluated from the perspective of the content and experience of citizenship. This course aims to examine democracy from this perspective - to interrogate the concepts of democracy and citizenship and the relationship between the two; to review contending conceptions of citizenship in a democratic context; and, to problematise these and how and if they can be realised in a globalised, multicultural and unequal world. The course also aims to be as participative, inter-active and student-led as possible, that is to allow students to help construct content and not just be passive recipients of that content. As a result many of the assignments have been designed to facilitate this as much as possible. In this way, not only does the course present different models of citizenship - but also seeks to bring these alive within the classroom context.

### **PO202 Active Citizenship Placement Second Semester / Credits: 5**

Students spend the second semester of second year in an external placement in a political organisation of their choice. This could be a political party, a local council, a new social movement, a non government organisation or a social partner. Students, through a combination of over 30 hours working in the placement and 12 hours of reflective workshops, get an opportunity to put theory into practice, learn the skills of politics and reflect on what they have observed from the perspective of power, institutions and active citizenship. Assessment happens by way of participation in group discussion, keeping a learning journal and a end of semester assessment.

### **PO305 Politics of the European Union First Semester module/Credits: 5**

This course builds on the introduction to political institutions in first year to explore the complex of institutions described as the European Union. The course is divided into three parts. The first part sets the scene for the study of the EU. It introduces students to the evolution of European governance, exploring the rationale for European integration, the EU's treaty base and exploring the current crises facing the EU. The second part gives an outline of the composition and operations of the various EU bodies (the Commission, the Councils, the Parliament, the Courts, the ECB). Where is power located in the EU? How are policies made? How do the various EU bodies interact? In the final

part we deploy our knowledge to current challenges to EU governance and key political conflicts, including the migrant crisis and Brexit. We also tackle key normative issues associated with the EU, such as the "democratic deficit", the definition of "Europe" and the conflict between social-democratic and neo-liberal versions of the "European project". Lastly, the course explore the EU role as global actor, the logic of enlargement policy and the processes associated with EU external governance. The course has a strong practical component: The study trip to EU institutions in Brussels and the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe at the end of January 2018 allows students to visit EU institutions, talk to policy-makers, and identify the role of Ireland in Europe. By the end of the course students will possess a critical understanding of the EU institutions and their role in the integration process; appreciated the salient issues facing the EU today; and have enhanced their skills in communicating clearly, effectively and appropriately both orally and in writing.

### **SO208 Media and Society      First semester module/credits: 5**

The evolution of the mass media (both old and new) and issues of ownership and control, production process and media content, and media audiences. The current restructuring of the media and culture industries in Ireland, and across the European Union. The outlook for public service broadcasting The potential of the mass media to act as an instrument of cultural integration

### **PO203 International Relations Second Semester module/Credits: 5**

This module introduces students to the main theoretical approaches to and contemporary issues in the study of International Relations (IR). Focusing on the relationships between individual states, between states and international organizations, and between states and non-state actors, the state is the central to the study of IR. The course uses the competing understandings of the state in the discipline to explore international politics. The module begins by outlining the key theoretical frameworks which inform IR debates. These include Realism, Liberal Internationalism, Marxism and Social Constructivism. Building on these conceptual foundations the module then introduces the key debates within the world of contemporary international politics, including Francis Fukuyama's *The End of History*, Samuel Huntington's *Clash of Civilisations*, the relationship between Islam and the West and the US "war on terror", and the nature and significance of global economic structures. The mixture of theoretical and empirical analysis will allow students to develop ideas about the

international political system, what it is made up of, how states interact with each other and with wider structural forces. Particular attention will be paid to the intellectual history of the discipline and to contemporary IR theory.

### **SO221 Marx on Ireland**

**First semester module/credits: 5**

This course examines in detail the work of Marx and Engels on the 'Irish Question'. We will explore not only what Marx (and Engels) said about Ireland, but also how they said it. The latter concern involves how Marx used his dialectical materialist framework to make sense of the Irish situation. The issues we will be looking at are colonialism, nationalism, ethnicity, racism, the colonial economy and anti-colonial forms of resistance.

### **PO222 Researching Politics: An introduction First Semester module / Credits: 5**

This class introduces students to the process of researching Politics - the things political scientists do to give meaningful answers to questions about power and 'who gets what, when and how'. This course is divided into three parts. The first part serves as an introduction into social science thinking: What type of relationships between political events do we want to explain? What makes a statement about a relationship valid? Under what conditions can we generalise from our findings? The second part provides an overview over the individual steps of the research process: What is a *good* research question? What are the respective strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative approaches for finding answers to my research question? How do I present the results of my research? The third part helps students develop a core understanding of the most important methods of political study, such as surveys, elite interviews, document and archival analysis, discourse analysis. We discuss the role of the internet both as a source of data and as a tool for data gathering. By the end of this course, students will understand the relationship between the researcher and the political world; discriminate and critically assess different research methods and their limitations; interpret the research of others and appreciate the problems involved in both collecting and using data; pursue intellectual questions in a rigorous and academic manner by employing analytical skills and critical thinking.

**SO214 Northern Irish Society****Second Semester module/Credits: 5**

This course introduces the ways in which contemporary Northern Irish society is organised, experienced and represented. The major social and political divisions within Northern Irish society are analysed

**PO304 Society and State****Second Semester module/Credits: 5**

Aim: To examine the relationship between the Society and State in the modern world. The module expressly examines the central issue of how power is distributed between the state and society, how it is institutionalized 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 Marxist and feminist approaches. It also examines power in society through theories of citizenship, participative democracy, social capital and social movements. A key theme is the relationship between power and wealth inequalities and who benefits from political decisions. Another important focus is on how globalization might impact on state - society relationships and how it might shape citizens capacity to be active shapers of their own environment.

**PO313 Power, Politics & Society in the Americas Second Semester module/Credits: 5**

This course aims to look at how the Latin American region was shaped by and in turn helped shape the contours of the contemporary global order, with particular regard to the Americas. In this sense it has three main inter-related objectives. The first seeks to understand what role the "invention" of Latin America has had on the development of modernity, particularly in the North Atlantic region, but more generally at a global level. The second objective will involve looking at the nature of power structures within Latin America, in the context of the western hemisphere, and how these have manifested themselves at an economic, political, and social level. Finally, the course will seek to assess Latin America's role in the contemporary global context, paying particular attention to the implementation of and responses to neoliberal globalization within the region and what these experiences can offer our own societies in terms of seeking alternatives to dominant economic, political and social models.

**PO210 Politics in Crisis****First semester module/credits: 5**

The aim of this module is to interrogate the state of politics in the modern world, and in particular, the decline of the status and legitimacy of political

parties, politicians, and political institutions of the modern state. The module will assess the future of democracy in light of the retreat of elites and the decline of interest in mass electoral politics. Case studies of recent political events, including shifts to populist politics and emerging new forms of political institutions, will be drawn upon to explore the implications of the crisis in politics

**SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action Second Semester  
module/Credits: 5**

To introduce sociological perspectives on social movements and collective action. May include: The variety of forms of social movements and collective action, theories of movements and collective action, social movements and the state.

## Assessment

<b>Course</b>	<b>Forms of Assessment</b>
<b>PO205 Democracy and Citizenship</b>	<b>Continuous assessment (100%)</b>
<b>PO202 Active Citizenship Placement</b>	<b>Continuous assessment (100%)</b>
<b>PO203 International Relations</b>	(a) 1 x 1 hour formal written examination at the end of the semester (50%) (b) 1 essay (50%)
<b>PO304 Society and State</b>	(a) 1 x 1 hour formal written examination at the end of the semester (50%) (b) 1 essay (50%)
<b>PO222 Researching Politics</b>	(a) 1 x 1 hour formal examination at the end of the semester (40%) (b) 50% continuous assessment (c) 10% other
<b>PO305 Politics of the EU</b>	(a) 1 x 1 hour formal examination at the end of the semester (50%) (b) 1 essay (50%)
<b>PO313 Power, Politics and Society in the Americas</b>	<b>Continuous Assessment (100%)</b>
<b>SO214 Northern Irish Society</b>	1 x 2 hour formal written examination at the end of the semester
<b>SO208 Media and Society</b>	1 x 2 hour formal written examination at the end of the semester
<b>SO221 Marx on Ireland</b>	(a) 1 x 1 hour formal written examination at the end of the semester (50%) (b) 1 essay (50%)
<b>SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action</b>	1 x 2 hour formal written examination at the end of the semester
<b>PO210 Politics in Crisis</b>	a) 1 x 1 hour formal written examination at the end of the semester (50%) (b) 1 essay (50%)

## 7. Key Dates

<b>Mon Sept 18</b>	<b>Lectures commence</b>
<b>Mon Oct 30 - Fri Nov 3</b>	<b>Study week</b>
<b>Fri Dec 15</b>	<b>Conclusion of first semester classes</b>
<b>Fri Jan 5</b>	<b>First semester examinations begin</b>
<b>*****</b>	
<b>Mon Jan 29</b>	<b>Lectures commence</b>
<b>Mon March 19 - Fri March 23</b>	<b>Study week no lectures/tutorials</b>
<b>Mon March 26 - Friday March 30</b>	<b>Easter break</b>
<b>Fri May 4</b>	<b>Conclusion of second semester classes</b>
<b>Fri May 11</b>	<b>Second semester examinations</b>
<b>Mon July 30</b>	<b>Deadline for Repeat candidates to submit Continuous Assessment work</b>

## 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 second year programme. If you have a problem or question which relates generally to the second year programme, or to your participation in it, please contact the second year co-ordinator.

Second year Co-ordinator 2017-2018: Prof. John O'Brennan

Contact Details: Room 2.2 Auxilia Building, email: [john.obrennan@mu.ie](mailto:john.obrennan@mu.ie)

If you have a query in relation to a particular lecture course, 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.

In addition to consulting with individual lecturers or the second year administrator, 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.

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

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

Talk to your second 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.

## Late Work Policy

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 30th 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 <u>and</u> exam.
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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**

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

Essays should be a maximum of 2,000 words in length and should be typed, single-sided and double-spaced (about 8-10 pages).

Essays must be put in the Sociology Post Box (Ground Floor, Auxilia) with a yellow cover sheet attached on or before the deadline date. Supplies of cover sheets are available in the Sociology Department.

You must refer to some reading material assigned for the course. 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.

Essays must be carefully referenced, showing the sources of any information or argument you have referred to in the essay. A list of references should be appended, listing all sources referred to in the essay, including internet sources.

It is imperative that your essay referencing and bibliography adhere to the style guidelines described in this handbook.

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

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
- number of readings and the use which is made of such readings
- logical development of the discussion
- awareness and discussion of alternative arguments or viewpoints
- clarity of the writing style.

A first class essay or paper will show an excellent understanding of the issue; demonstrate an ability to use analytical reasoning; mobilise a good range of readings; and it 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.

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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%200.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.

## **Maynooth University Curriculum Initiative**

You have the option to register for an elective stream of 10 CREDITS in Second Year. This means substituting 5 CREDITS of Sociology and 5 CREDITS of your other subject for this special 10 CREDIT module.

Please note that registration for electives will be subject to enrolment limitations, and also must be compatible with the timetabling and other requirements of your main subjects. Some combinations of electives and subjects are excluded. Further information is available at:

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**September 2017**