



Centre for the Study of Politics

Department of Sociology

Maynooth University

Bachelor of Arts in Politics

Second year handbook, 2020-21

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A message from the Head of Department, Prof. Seán Ó Riain

Dear students,

Welcome back to the Department of Sociology and the Centre for the Study of Politics at Maynooth for your second year as undergraduate. This will certainly be the most unusual start to the academic year that we have experienced and we know that you have many questions and concerns.

It is our goal to make the year enlightening and interesting for you (and therefore for us), but we also want that experience to be as safe and comfortable as possible. You can find out more about our exciting [undergraduate](#), [Masters](#) and [PhD](#) programmes through the relevant pages on our website - and about [what you can do with a degree in Politics or Sociology](#). Find out about the fascinating [research](#) of our staff and students, as well as the work of our [Centre for the Study of Politics](#).

You will also find details of our teaching approaches this year - in general and each module - on the page for our [Blended Learning Hub](#). This will be the main location for further information about the general departmental approach to teaching and learning this year and I would ask you to visit it regularly for updated information.

Please read the materials available on the Blended Learning Hub along with your outline Timetables, available on the undergraduate page, for a comprehensive view of the overall programme that you will follow (as far as we can predict it in these uncertain times).

Most of what you need to know is contained in this student handbook. But if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

Beir bua

Seán

Professor Seán Ó Riain

Our Learning Community

Key Principles

Our department is a community of teachers and learners who endeavour to learn from each other through relationships that are open, respectful and engaging.

We are a diverse group of people who respect each others' varying experiences and perspectives.

We engage in active discussion and debate in an atmosphere of civility and mutual respect, in-person and online, inside and outside the classroom.

We respect others by avoiding disrupting their teaching and learning – we try to avoid talking during lectures, arriving late and/or leaving early from lectures, and other disruptive actions.

We respect the policies of each lecturer and tutor regarding classroom and module policies and practices, including the use of technology in the classroom.

We understand that the staff of the department are concerned for the welfare of students, for fairness and inclusiveness in our work and, overall, to promote learning in the ways that are judged to be most effective.

We understand that we can bring concerns that we might have to academic and administrative staff, and in particular to the Head of Department.

About the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University

We are delighted to welcome you back to the campus of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth to resume your studies in Sociology.

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.

The Department's offices: 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 (first floor). It is accessible by stairs and by lift.

You will find additional information about the Sociology Department on our website <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology>, on the department noticeboards in Auxilia, and by following us on twitter @MU_Sociology

In the next section of this handbook we present our overall vision of how our degree programme is developing our students' base of knowledge and skills over its three-year course. Apart from this standard programme organised for each undergraduate year, you may be interested in other initiatives that are run by, or in conjunction with, the Department of Sociology. These will be advertised on the department's notice boards and on the department's [website](#).

In addition to catering for over eight hundred students across our undergraduate programme, a further fifty students are engaged in postgraduate studies in the Department. We encourage you to consider furthering your studies with us in our taught M.A. programmes. Deadlines for applications are in June each year and staff are happy to discuss the programmes earlier in the year. More details are available on our website at: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/ma-programmes>

We also offer supervision for M.Litt. and Ph.D. degrees. If you are interested in doing a research postgrad, please talk to the postgraduate co-ordinator Prof. Mary Murphy (mary.p.murphy@mu.ie) and take a look at the specialist areas of interest of the members of the Department below.

The subject matter of sociology is diverse and our programme in Maynooth University reflects this and the varied interests of the members of the Department.

Some of our specialist interests include:

Professor Mary P. Murphy is Professor of Politics 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. Prof Murphy is also a member of the Council of State.

Dr. Philip Finn

Dr Philip Finn is Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University. His research interests include welfare conditionality, the sociology of everyday life, social reproduction, and the politics of work and non-work. He has recently completed his PhD, *The Absurdity of Welfare: Experiences of Irish Welfare Conditionality*. He was a visiting fellow at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, York University, as part of the Welfare Conditionality Project in 2019. He has presented his research findings on the use of conditionality and sanctions in labour activation to the Irish Parliament's Joint Committee on Employment Affairs and Social Protection. He has also co-authored the report *The 'High Road' Back to Work: Developing a Public Employment Eco System for a Post-Covid Recovery* (with Mary Murphy, Nuala Whelan and Michael McGann).

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, Comhlamh, 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*.

Professor John O'Brennan: is 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 a frequent contributor to both the national and international media on EU issues. He is also a member of the Irish government's Brexit Stakeholder Advisory group which advises the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Brexit's impact on Ireland.

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 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).

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. Mary Benson

My research interests all come under the broad heading of urban sociology. I am particularly interested in changing cityscapes; gentrification; place/ public space; urban exploration; qualitative methods and visual representations. These fields of interest intersect with other topics of interest such as consumption, identity, social class and inequality.

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. 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, urban transformation and change, public culture. She is particularly interested in the fate of the public realm in the face of privatization and monetization trends. Professor Corcoran is currently working at the

interface of sociology and art and has collaborated with artist Mary Burke on a number of community engaged projects.

Dr. Eoin Flaherty

I am interested in how patterns of inequality are formed and maintained, and how they change over time. I study these processes with a particular focus on income inequality during the late 20th/early 21st century, and instances of famine during the 19th century (mainly Ireland). I am also interested in how human societies have formed systems of cooperation and managed resources collectively, and whether such systems were resilient to environmental stress. I am also interested in: Top incomes and the 'super-rich', labour's share of national income, time series and pooled time series cross-section analysis. Financialisation, rentiers, and power resources. Famine, common-pool resource systems, primitive communism, and nineteenth-century Ireland. Complexity theory, human ecology, and environmental sociology.

Professor G. Honor Fagan

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

Professor 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.

Professor Aphra Kerr

Research interests focus on technology, media and emergent digital research methods. Current research explores: gender and diversity in digital media; inequality and algorithmic decision making on online platforms; digital citizenship and internet cultures; new forms of virtual work and production. Recent projects have explored digital games production and policy, online community management work, broadcasting and diversity.

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 globalized interpersonal and

interactive forms of bodily culture through skin altering practices in Asia and Europe, beauty pageants, and Asian popular culture (Korean and Japanese dramas).

Dr. Paul Ryan

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.

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.

For more information on the Department and on the individual research interests of members of staff please consult our web page at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/our-people>

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.

Timetable Information & Programme Requirements

Please refer to the online Timetable for up to date information on venues and times.

<https://apps.maynoothuniversity.ie/timetable/>

Table 1: Semester 1 Modules

28th September 2020 – 18th December 2020

There are three timetables here

1) double major; 2) major; and (3) minor

PLEASE SCROLL down to the correct timetable

DOUBLE MAJOR PO2DM

Semester 1

28th September 2020 – 18th December 2020

ALL COMPULSORY MODULES:	Credits
PO203 International Relations Prof. John O'Brennan	5
PO205 Democracy and Citizenship Dr. Michael McGann	5
PO223 Introduction to Research Methods (plus tutorials) Dr. Nuala Whelan	5

DOUBLE MAJOR PO2DM

Semester 2

1st February 2021 – 7th May 2021

COMPULSORY MODULES:	Credits
PO202 Active Citizenship Placement Nessa Ni Chasaide	5
PO304 Society and State Prof. Mary Murphy	5
OPTIONAL MODULES: Select <u>1</u> module from the following group:	
SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action Dr. Laurence Cox	5
PO305 Politics of the EU Prof. John O'Brennan	5
SP216 Comparative and European Social Policy Dr. Joe Larragy	5

MAJOR PO2MJ

Semester 1

28th September 2020 – 18th December 2020

COMPULSORY MODULES:	Credits
PO203 International Relations Prof. John O’Brennan	5
PO205 Democracy and Citizenship Dr. Michael McGann	5
PO223 Introduction to Research Methods (plus tutorials) Dr. Nuala Whelan	5
OPTIONAL MODULES: Select <u>1</u> module from the following group:	
SO208 Media & Society Prof. Aphra Kerr	5

MAJOR PO2MJ

Semester 2

1st February 2021 – 7th May 2021

COMPULSORY MODULES:	Credits
PO202 Active Citizenship Placement Nessa Ni Chasaide	5
PO304 Society and State Prof. Mary Murphy	5
OPTIONAL MODULES: Select <u>1</u> module from the following group:	
SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action Dr. Laurence Cox	5
PO305 Politics of the EU Prof. John O'Brennan	5
SP216 Comparative and European Social Policy Dr. Joe Larragy	5

MINOR PO2MI

Semester 1

28th September 2020 – 18th December 2020

COMPULSORY MODULES:	Credits
PO205 Democracy and Citizenship Dr. Michael McGann	5
OPTIONAL MODULES: Select <u>1</u> module from the following group:	
SO208 Media & Society Prof. Aphra Kerr	5
PO203 International Relations Prof. John O'Brennan	5

MINOR PO2MI

Semester 2

1st February 2021 – 7th May 2021

COMPULSORY MODULES:	Credits
PO304 Society and State Prof. Mary Murphy	5
OPTIONAL MODULES: Select <u>1</u> module from the following group:	
SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action Dr. Laurence Cox	5
PO305 Politics of the EU Prof. John O'Brennan	5
SP216 Comparative and European Social Policy Dr. Joe Larragy	5

Module Descriptions

PO202 Active Citizenship Placement

“Active citizenship” as an element of the politics course is a practical as well as a theoretical issue. This module offers students a key learning opportunity to learn and practice the skills of active citizenship in a real-life environment, as well as a chance to develop their future career. In this module, students engage in a practice placement organized either by themselves or by the placement coordinator. This entails part-time work in the political world, typically in the field of “active citizenship” (e.g. in an NGO, a community group, the local branch of a political party, a newsletter, a grassroots campaign, or other group or organization as agreed with the placement coordinator). This placement is supported by a regular workshop and the maintenance of a learning journal.

PO205 Democracy and Citizenship

This course aims to introduce students to some of the principle concepts in political theory via an examination of the main conditions underpinning theory on citizenship. Following Heywood (2004) lectures will introduce and interrogate concepts such as human nature, the individual and society; politics, government and the state; sovereignty, the nation and supranationalism; power, authority and legitimacy; law, order and justice; rights, obligations and citizenship; democracy, representation and the public interest; freedom, toleration and liberation; equality, social justice and welfare; property, planning and the market; and, tradition, progress and utopia. The lectures will be complimented by self-directed readings of three classic theorists chosen by the student from a wide ranging list. In this way the course aims to provide students with a thorough grounding in basic philosophical theory underlying contemporary politics, while simultaneously evaluating its appropriateness for helping citizens face future challenges which may arise from the current national and global contexts.

PO223 Introduction to Research Methods

This module is designed for students of Politics and Criminology. Political research may be conducted on governments, public policies, political processes, civil society sector and political behaviour. Criminological research may be conducted on government responses to crime, public policies, politicisation of crime, the criminal justice system, and criminal behaviour. Both types of research are grounded in either political theory or criminological theory; both seek to influence social policy and both inform our understanding of the practice of politics and criminal justice practice.

The module introduces students to the main research methods used by both political scientists and criminologists. Lectures will give students an understanding of different research philosophies that underpin research design. We discuss the merits of various research methods such as interviewing, survey analysis, polling, focus groups and observation. We will also be sensitive to issues of power and ethical considerations as we explore the use and abuse of research data to further political agendas of lobbyists, politicians and a range of non-governmental actors and organisations. The module is

delivered through 16 core lectures, and 8 small group tutorials. In the Tutorial groups you will get hands-on experience of researching in your own primary discipline (Politics or Criminology).

PO305 Politics of the European Union

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. 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

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 and the potential of the mass media to act as an instrument of cultural integration

PO203 Introduction to International Relations

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 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", the volatility associated with Donald Trump's Presidency, 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.

PO304 State and Society

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.

SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action

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.

SP216 Comparative and European Social Policy

This module aims to enable students develop an analysis of social policy from transnational and comparative perspectives. This module introduces a range of approaches to comparing social policies and developments in the welfare state across counties; it explores the relevance of "welfare regimes", approaches to comparing different branches of social policy; it examines the relevance of international bodies and social policy, and the Social Dimension of the European Union.

Teaching and Learning Formats During Covid-19

General Information

There are still a lot of uncertainties about the year ahead. We have done our best here to provide a guide to how we see the teaching in the department operating in the first semester, under current health guidelines.

Please keep a close eye on our 'Blended Learning Hub' on the department website:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/blendedlearninghub>

This will be updated during the year with information regarding various aspects of teaching and learning in the department. Please follow the information from your lecturers through Moodle and other media particularly closely.

Our overall approach is to provide as much 'content' (lectures, readings etc) as clearly and interestingly as possible and to provide you with plenty of opportunities to discuss the ideas, knowledge and information in each module. In some cases, that will be in-person and in other cases it will be through a variety of online formats.

In Table 3 below, we outline the three main formats – “Live”, “Flipped” and “Remote”.

- Please note that the exact organisation of each format will vary from module to module and under changing circumstances.
- Individual meetings with lecturers will vary depending on the circumstances with some meetings online (eg via Teams) and some in person.
- In person teaching (especially lectures) will have an online backup (eg recording) wherever possible.
- While we can't guarantee that you won't miss anything if you can't make an in-person meeting, the great bulk of the material will be accessible in online formats.

Table 3: Teaching Formats – A Rough Outline of our Three Main Approaches

Title	In-Person Elements	Online Elements	Student Engagement with the Course Material	Most likely adjustment in case of fully remote teaching
'Live'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures in person to groups of less than 50. • For modules with over 50, sub-groups of the class will attend different lectures. • Lectures will be recorded and placed online, and possibly 'livestreamed' at the time of lecturing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recorded lectures will be online • The usual materials (slides, readings etc) would be on Moodle • Discussion fora, questions for lecturers etc available on Moodle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at some of the lectures in person • Viewing the other lectures 'livestreamed' or recorded • Use of Moodle to access materials, Q&A etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move of lectures online, either through 'live lectures' (eg on Teams) or recorded lectures (eg Powerpoint with audio)
'Flipped'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings in person with groups of less than 50. • For modules with over 50, sub-groups of the class will attend different meetings. • Focus on discussion and questions around lecture materials which are primarily online. • Unlikely to be recorded, may be supplemented with online Q&A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and other course material will primarily be provided online • The usual materials (slides, readings etc) would be on Moodle • Discussion fora, questions for lecturers etc available on Moodle but also at in person meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the primary course material (eg lectures) online • Attend the in person meetings for discussion, clarification etc • Use of Moodle to access materials, Q&A etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move of discussion to online formats (lectures etc will already be provided remotely)
'Remote'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and other course material will primarily be provided online • The usual materials (slides, readings etc) would be on Moodle • Discussion fora, questions for lecturers etc available on Moodle but also at in person meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the primary course material (eg lectures) online • Attend online meetings for discussion, clarification etc • Use of Moodle to access materials, Q&A etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

We have also provided a list of the modules offered in the department in the first semester and the basic format of teaching, as well as an estimate of the in person contact hours for students in each module (See Table 4 below).

There are a wide variety of factors affecting the teaching formats for each module. These include:

- Class and room size
- Local and national public health guidelines (e.g. 50-person limit on meetings with students)
- University policies
- The teaching strategy of the module, linked to the learning outcomes
- Circumstances of the lecturer
- Fit with departmental approach to teaching and learning

The mix of these may change during the semester and affect the format of each module. You will understand that the specifics of some of these factors are confidential and it may not be possible to fully explain changes in format. It is possible that overall we may be able to move to more in-person teaching as the year goes on, but it is also possible that we will shift towards more remote, online teaching and learning, as circumstances change.

While we provide a mix of in-person and online teaching, we also understand that student circumstances vary. **In general, please prepare as much as possible for both.** However, our approach is also to provide as much back-up as possible for the in-person teaching so that students who miss out on some of that teaching will have an online backup to turn to.

This includes:

- recording of live lectures (except in the case of discussion oriented or tutorial style sessions);
- provision of other online materials;
- avoiding assessments in class;
- avoiding attendance marks as much as possible (although there may be participation marks, which can be completed online)

If you miss in person sessions, we can't guarantee that everything will be replaced or replicated online. However, the bulk of the material will be available in some recorded or other online format. There may be technological or other issues that interfere with that from time to time but please bear with us while we do our best to mesh together in person and online learning.

We will also make clear before the start of the semester how sub-groups within classes will be allocated (probably on an alphabetical basis) and who your first point of contact in the department should be in case of difficulties. Please don't hesitate to contact the relevant university offices if you think that you could benefit from various supports that the university offers. Every year, many students avail of these supports and they make a huge difference in their university experience.

Table 4: Planned Module Formats in Semester 1 (Semester 2 formats will be provided later in the semester)

Details of each module format will vary somewhat and will be available from lecturers. This indicative guide is to help with student planning.

Module Code	Teaching Format (see Guide to Formats)	Anticipated Student In Person Contact Hours (approx)
PO203	Live	1 lecture per week
PO205	Live	1 lecture per week
PO223	Flipped (possibly Live depending on numbers)	1 lecture per week
SO208	Live	1 lecture per week

Assessment

Details of assessment will be provided through modules with an overview on the website in due course.

Key Dates 2020-2021

Please keep in mind that submission dates for continuous assessment work for optional modules are not included in this list and that dates are subject to change.

Mon Sept 28th Lectures commence

Week beginning 26th Oct. Study week

Fri Dec 18th Conclusion of first semester classes

Mon Feb 1st Lectures commence

Week beginning 15th March Study week

Week beginning 5th April Easter break

Fri May 7th Conclusion of second semester classes

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.

The year Co-ordinator for 2020-2021 is:

Professor John O' Brennan

Room: 2.2, Second Floor, Auxilia

Phone: 01-7086554

Email: 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. It is difficult to hold regular in person office hours during these times but staff will post contact times on the module Moodle sites. Alternatively, you may make an appointment by email or by contacting Áine Edmonds or Trish Connerty, Sociology Department, 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:

1. Talk to the staff member who has administrative responsibility for second year (Prof. John O Brennan)
2. Talk to your second year student representative after he or she is elected.

For more information on contacting staff in the department and university, please go to:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/blendedlearninghub>

And click on the *Who Should I Contact?* tab

Communications

It is assumed that you will 'attend' your module in some form on a consistent basis, whether that is in person or online (and this will vary from module to module). It is also assumed that you will check the relevant departmental webpages once every two or 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 MUMAIL email account every two to three days (even if you primarily use another email account) and that you check module Moodle sites regularly.

All Lecturer and Department announcements go to your Maynooth University email account only.

Please make sure that you check your Maynooth University email account every two to three days (even if you primarily use another email account). Please also enable your Moodle account to receive messages from the sociology department and check your module Moodle sites regularly.

You are responsible for keeping up to date with announcements or notices provided during periods of time that you are absent from class or from campus.

Deadlines, Late Work and Penalties

We understand that students will face multiple challenges this year and we will do whatever we can to facilitate your completion of all your work and your programme as a whole. However, our approach is to work to the programme deadlines, more or less as usual, and then provide accommodations and supports as needed. Otherwise it will become very difficult to manage all the competing demands on your studies. We encourage you to manage your schedule of assessment, as well as of teaching and learning, very carefully. We will provide resources at the Blended Learning Hub to help you do this.

Our overall policy is as follows.

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. Please provide a medical certificate covering the relevant period or explain the other extenuating circumstances. These should generally be communicated to, and accepted by, the lecturer/tutor prior to, or immediately after, the relevant deadline. Please note that work submitted after the deadline may not receive individual feedback from the lecturer concerned.

Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination

Details of Autumn resit assessment will be provided during the year, depending on the changing circumstances. However, the basic principles will remain that assessment completed during the year can be carried forward towards the resits.

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.

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. [Link to policy here.](#)

The Department of Sociology operates an "early warning" system. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, 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.

The Maynooth University guidelines on plagiarism are available at:

https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Plagiarism%20Sept%202015_0.pdf

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, not put them as footnotes or endnotes etc.

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 full-stop:

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).
[Please note where the full stop is put.]

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).

Longer quotations are often called Block Quotations 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).

A FULL GUIDE IS AVAILABLE ALONGSIDE THE HANDBOOKS IN THE UNDERGRADUATES SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE.

The Department has prepared specific guidelines for citation please see here:

https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/ASA%20Referencing%20Guide%20for%20MU%20Studentsfinal_0.pdf

You may also find the library helpful in finding, using and citing sociological resources. They also have printers, laptops and other helpful resources on avoiding plagiarism.

USEFUL LINKS:

Library homepage: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>

Sociology library guide: <http://nuim.libguides.com/sociology>

LIST online: <http://nuim.libguides.com/list-online>

Undergraduate library contact: Áine Carey, aine.carey@mu.ie & Niall O'Brien

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:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/maynooth-education/electives>

Information from the Experiential Learning Office

The routes available to Maynooth students to experience more from their degree programme are diverse, enabling the development of rich learning experiences that connect classroom content with real-world experience. The Experiential Learning Office connects Maynooth students to a range of opportunities in the following areas.

Professional Development and Employability

Experiential learning professional development and employability modules are available to eligible second year students. The key purpose of these modules, involving a number of employers, is to facilitate students in their academic, personal and professional career development, so that they will be well equipped to secure internships and to successfully enter the graduate labour market.

See Skills for Success EX201 and EX202 for more details.

MU SPUR (Summer Programme for Undergraduate Research)

An active research based and paid experiential learning programme for successful undergraduate pre-final year student applicants who wish to learn more about the postgraduate experience, by working closely with faculty mentors on research projects across a range of disciplines.

Community Based Service Learning

Community Based Service Learning presents a credit-bearing academic experience that empowers students to engage with their surrounding communities, which often results in enhancing student's academic, civic, social and personal development, whilst they contribute to the common good. The experiential learning office facilitates academic staff in offering community based service learning experiences with their students.

For further information, refer to:

Website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/experiential-learning-office>

Email: Aisling.Flynn@mu.ie

Tel: + 353 1 4747760