



**Department of Sociology**

**Maynooth University**

**FIRST YEAR POLITICS**

**Bachelor of Arts in Politics**

**First year handbook, 2019-20**

Department of Sociology, Maynooth University

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### **Introduction to Maynooth University**

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

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

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

### **Introducing the Department**

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

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

The Department's commitment to active citizenship and public sociology has been a long-standing one, and staff members have a wide range of practical experience as well as research-based understanding of politics. This has included involvement in social movements, community activism and issue-based campaigning; media

work and public debate; active involvement in political parties, trade unions and lobbying groups; development and human rights work; local government and social partnership. Most of us have experience of living and working in other countries, and bring this to bear on our work.

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

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

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

Please check on the Sociology notice boards in Auxilia for details of forthcoming events. You may also access information on forthcoming events on the Departmental website.

<http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology>

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

### **The BA in Arts (Politics)**

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

#### Political institutions

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

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

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

#### Political sociology

Political sociology is the study of political inequalities and the connection between political and other forms of inequalities across class, gender and ethnicity. Political sociology is therefore interested in power, who has it and how it is used. It includes a broad range of approaches which study the relationship between politics and society. It studies how underlying social contexts of class, gender and ethnicity impacts on political actors, pressure groups and social movements and how, in turn, politics shapes social structures.

It examines the central issue of how power is distributed between the state and society, how it is institutionalised and how it is exercised. It examines competing definitions of power including traditional theories of elite power, pluralist power and corporatist power as well as theories of informal power including citizenship, participative democracy, social capital and social movements. In exploring the interdependent

relationship between the state and society it examines various arguments for the state to have a more minor or more central role in modern societies.

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

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

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

Students are likely to go on to find work in areas such as NGOs, political research, activism, diplomacy and international affairs, journalism, development work, community work, public policy, human rights, or other forms of active involvement. Others again may enter electoral and party politics or the institutions of the European Union. Indeed the evidence shows that quite a large number of our BA Politics graduates in recent years have gone on to work for TDs, MEPs or political parties in Dublin and/or Brussels

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

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

A degree in politics will also provide the knowledge, theories and research skills that will serve students well in any career. The degree equips the graduate with various skills, including the abilities to understand topical issues, to investigate public life through systematic research, to analyse and present information, and to apply these skills to a wide variety of societies around the world.

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

## **First year Politics in Maynooth University**

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

### **Second and third year**

In second year, students take politics along with one of their two other first-year arts subjects. You may take Politics as a Major, Double Honours, or Minor subject along with another subject. In this year, you will deepen your theoretical understanding of politics as well as acquiring the tools to research politics effectively. A key element of this year is the practice placement, offering students the chance to move from observation and analysis of politics to hands-on experience and reflection on that experience. For those studying the EU the opportunity to participate in a fieldtrip to the EU is offered. In second year, students take another required module on society and state and develop their own research into political life, using the research methods learned in second year to write an original research thesis, supported with departmental tutorials. In second and third year, students can take a variety of other optional (elective) modules, with different options being offered each year. Relevant modules from other departments may also be taken.

### **BA (International) degree**

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

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

## **What do I have to do?**

### Teaching and assessment

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

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that attendance at lectures and seminars is not optional. These are the places where people with real expertise in Sociology will introduce you to various aspects of what can often be a complex discipline. If you do not come to class, you will miss an important opportunity to learn and you will be poorly prepared for the various forms of assessment that appear along the way. So please bear in mind that the Department requires your attendance at all lectures and seminars.

### Study skills and tutorials

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

### Placement programme and assessment

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

### Dissertation, workshop and assessment

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

### The international and comparative approach

Running through all the different themes and years of the course is an emphasis on the use of historical and comparative analysis as a tool for understanding: setting our own time in perspective so as to get away from assumptions that the way things are now is the way they have always been and always will be; comparing our

own experience with the experience of other countries and regions in order to stand back from what is most familiar to us; and developing the linguistic skills needed to go below the surface of the official documents which are routinely translated into English. The course expresses this in modules which focus on comparative and historical methods, on world-systems analysis and the exploration of politics in other countries, but also in many modules which take a comparative and / or historical approach to their subject matter. The options of the BA (International), of taking language options and of the international field trip / summer school are all available for students who wish to pursue this in more depth.

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

The course is centred around a number of key themes: active citizenship, formal politics, political sociology, political theory and research methods. These are among the core modules offered; you can take each of them further by choosing options in this area. The distinctive feature of the degree is this breadth of vision of the study and practice of politics.

#### Active citizenship

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

#### Formal politics

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

#### Political sociology

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

#### Political theory

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

#### Research methods

This theme gives you the core tools for researching politics. In second year you take either survey or fieldwork research methods, while in third year a range of methods electives are available. Your final-year dissertation

is organised around an original, independent piece of political research that you design and carry out in consultation with an experienced supervisor.

### **Alternative 'streams' within the degree**

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

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

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

#### Cultural Citizenship: Aspects of Politics and Culture

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

#### Social Citizenship: Aspects of Social Policy

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

#### Language Options

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

#### Cognate disciplines and course combinations

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

## **The Maynooth Curriculum**

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

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

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

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

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

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

MH101 –

[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/First%20Year%20Student%20Guide%20MH101%20Adrienne\\_0.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/First%20Year%20Student%20Guide%20MH101%20Adrienne_0.pdf)

**Structure of the course (courses change from year to year depending on staff availability)**

First semester	Second semester
<b>First Year</b>	
PO151 Introduction to Political Ideas (7.5 credits)	PO152 Introduction to Political Institutions (7.5 credits)
<b>Second Year</b>	
PO205 Democracy and citizenship (5 credits)	PO202 Active citizenship, participation and research methods (5 credits; includes placement)
PO223 Introduction to Research Methods (plus workshops) (5 credits)	PO304 State and Society (5 credits)
Elective Modules: Choose between:  SO208 Media & Society PO305 Politics of the EU PO313 Power, Politics and Society in the Americas	Elective Modules: Choose between:  SO331 Social Movements and Collective Action PO203 International Relations SP216 Comparative and European Social Policy
<b>Third Year</b>	
PO303A Special Topic Research Project (5 credits)	PO303A Special Topic Research Project (5 credits)  PO315 Irish Politics and Society (5 credits)
Elective Modules: Choose between:  SO319 Revolutions PO311 Politics of Ethnic Conflict PO312 Gender and Politics GY337 Geo Politics: Power and Space	Select <u>2</u> modules from:  SO311 Sociology of Development SO340 Civil Society PO314 Policies and Policy-Making in the European Union GY347 Electoral Geography

### **First year modules**

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

#### **Semester 1**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

<b>COMPULSORY MODULES</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PO151 Introduction to Political Ideas Dr. Barry Cannon	7.5

#### **Semester 2**

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

<b>COMPULSORY MODULES</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PO152 Introduction to Political Institutions Dr. Mary Murphy	7.5

### **Assessment schedule**

PO151 Tutorial sign-ups will commence on the PO151 Moodle page on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 10am and will run until 12 noon on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019.

PO151 (100% continuous assessment)

PO152 (60% continuous assessment and 40% exam)

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

The main aims of this course are to introduce students to some of the principal ideas which inform how politics is practiced, and relating these to the contemporary context in order to understand better how they work. The course will introduce, examine and interrogate three basic ideas central to politics: power, liberty and justice. With the first, a central concern in politics is the balance between the power of the state and that of the individual. But are all individuals equally powerful? And if not, what implications might this have for the power of the State? Using general readings on theories of power, and specific readings from key theorists Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and John Locke (1632-1704), we will examine a range of contemporary issues. The second objective of the course is to examine the issue of liberty – a key concept in political theory. When are we truly free? To help answer this question we will look at two opposing viewpoints, John Stuart Mill's (1806-1873) classic liberal conception and Karl Marx's (1818-1883) critique of that perspective. Finally, we will examine the notion of justice looking at three radically different conceptions of it; first the liberal tradition of John Rawls (1921-2002), then the libertarian tradition as exemplified by Robert Nozick (1938-2002) and finally the socialist tradition, represented by G.A. Cohen (1941-2009). The central issue in our enquiry is the balance between individual rights and responsibilities versus those of the collective, taking the issue of taxation as a contemporary example to explore this dichotomy. In this way students will have a broad conception of three main ideas guiding the practice of politics, and the issues and dilemmas which these ideas present as they are exercised in contemporary life.

**Introduction to Political Institutions (PO152, Dr. Mary P. Murphy)** This module introduces students to government and politics, and focuses on the key institutions to be found in modern political systems, what they contribute to processes of governance, and how power is distributed across and among those institutions. It interrogates the power of the principal political actors in Irish and European contexts and provides a comparative theoretical approach to understanding the role, function and relative power of these institutional sites. It encourages students to think about how institutional design impacts on politics and policy-making. Studying political institutions reveals much about where power is concentrated and how political actors interact to produce policy outcomes and shape the world we live in. Political institutions are thus formal mechanisms and instruments employed to manage power relations and enable decision making at local, regional, national and international level. By formal political institutions we refer to, for example, constitutions and laws, executives and legislatures, parties and elections. These institutions regulate, channel and shape interests, identities and ideologies in political communities. Yet they also reflect, and often stabilise existing power relations. Politics and political systems have been characterised in recent years by distinct modes of flux, with an increasingly discernible mood which political scientists refer to as 'anti-politics', 'anti-system' and 'anti-establishment'. The most obvious manifestation of that mood has been the drop in electoral support for established parties of the centre, a corresponding rise in support for populist right and left wing alternatives and, in some jurisdictions, significant protest movements. This course will highlight these important contemporary phenomena as it evaluates the significance of political institutions in contemporary politics.

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

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

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

**Prof John O'Brennan:** is senior lecturer and Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration. His research interests are divided between the process and politics of EU enlargement and EU foreign policy on the one hand, and Ireland's relationship with the European Union on the other. He has published a number of books and journal articles on EU enlargement including *The Eastern Enlargement of the European Union* (Routledge, 2006) and *National Parliaments within the Enlarged European Union* (Routledge, 2007). His articles have appeared in the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, the *Dublin Review of Books*, *European Foreign Affairs Review*, *European Political Science*, *Global Society*, the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Parliamentary Affairs*, and the *Journal of European Integration* amongst others. He is 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.

## **Sociology department staff interests**

### **Dr Mary Benson**

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

### **Dr Delma Byrne**

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**

Democratization and development, in conflict areas in the Latin America region, New Right in Latin America.

### **Dr Brian Conway**

Collective memory; cross-national variation in religious belief and practice; history of Irish Sociology.

### **Professor Mary P. Corcoran**

Urban transformation and change; migratory processes and experiences; Public cultures.

### **Dr Colin Coulter**

Social theory; ethnicity and nationalism; popular culture including popular music; development policy and practices.

### **Dr Laurence Cox**

Social movements; the movement against capitalist globalisation; working class community politics; new religious movements and participatory research strategies.

### **Dr Pauline Cullen**

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

### **Professor Honor Fagan**

Human Security, Gender and Development Governance, and Social Sustainability.

### **Dr Eoin Flaherty**

How patterns of inequality are formed, maintained, and change over time, focus on income inequality during late 20th/early 21st century, famine during 19th century (mainly Ireland).

### **Professor Jane Gray**

Gender; reproduction and social change; families and households; comparative-historical sociology.

### **Dr Aphra Kerr**

Globalisation, technology and society; political economy of the media; media audiences and cultures; information economies and societies.

**Dr Rebecca King-O’Riain**

Race and ethnicity; education; gender; beauty; children; qualitative methods; interracial marriage and multiracial people.

**Dr Mary P. Murphy**

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

**Professor Sean Ó Riain**

Work, inequality and political economy; The Celtic Tiger and its aftermath; state and society; governance, space, place and globalisation; information economy and society.

**Professor John O’Brennan**

Brexit and its implications for Ireland, The Process and Politics of EU Enlargement, The European Union and the Western Balkans, European Neighbourhood Policy, Ireland and the European Union, Ireland and Brexit; Ethno cultural approaches to International Relations, the EU and Russia/Turkey.

**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**

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

## 7. Key Dates 2019-20

Mon Sept 23	Lectures commence
PO151 Tutorial sign-ups will commence on the PO151 Moodle page on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 10am and will run until 12 noon on Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019.	
Mon Oct 28 – Fri 1 Nov	Study week
Fri Dec 20	Conclusion of first semester classes
Jan 2020	First semester examinations begin

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Mon Feb 3, 2020	Semester 2 Lectures commence
Mon March 16 – Fri March 20	Study week
Mon April 13 – Friday April 17	Easter Vacation
Fri May 8	Conclusion of second semester classes
May 2020	Second semester examinations commence
July 31 <sup>st</sup> 2020	Deadline for Repeat candidates to submit Continuous Assessment work

## 8. Consultation

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 selected hours during each week of term. Each staff member has consultation hours posted on his or her office door and on their course outlines.

If you cannot attend during office hours please make an appointment. You may make an appointment by telephone, email, or by contacting Áine Edmonds or Trish Connerty, Sociology Department Executive Assistants, Room 1.5, The Auxilia Building, Tel: 708.3659.

In addition to consulting with individual lecturers or the year coordinator, students may communicate with the Sociology Department through the **Staff-Student Consultative Committee**. The purpose of this body is to provide a forum where the concerns and interests of students can be raised. The committee consists of the staff year coordinator and student representatives who are 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 1st year.
2. Talk to your 1st-year student representative after s/he is elected.

## **9. Communications**

We design our modules and assessment assuming that you will be present at all lectures, tutorials and other class meetings. This is not learning that can be done at a distance or solely through Moodle. If you must be absent, please bring your documentation (explaining your absence) to the department office to be logged – you do not need to take it to every lecturer.

We also assume that you will check the departmental noticeboards in the Auxilia Building once every two to three days.

### **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.

## **10. Support Services**

Maynooth University provides a wide range of support services to its students. A document listing and describing these services can be accessed through the Undergraduate Students page of the [Department's website](#) or by searching the Maynooth website.

## **11. Penalties for Late Work**

Where applicable, the following penalties apply. If coursework is submitted late, 10 marks will be deducted. No coursework will be accepted 14 calendar days after the deadline. These penalties will apply except upon presentation of a medical certificate covering the relevant period or in other extremely extenuating circumstances, which must be communicated to, and accepted by, the lecturer/tutor prior to, or immediately after, the relevant deadline. It is not a responsibility of teaching staff to provide individual feedback for work submitted after the official deadline.

## **12. Requirements for Autumn Supplemental Examination**

Usually the repeat assessment requirements are the same as the original assessment requirements. Please discuss with your lecturer if you are uncertain.

Where applicable, Autumn repeat students must submit continuous assessment work by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**. No continuous assessment work will be accepted after this date.

## **13. Preparing and submitting an essay**

- 1) Essays should be a maximum of 2,000 words in length and should be typed, single-sided and double-spaced (about 8-10 pages).
- 2) Essays must be put in the Sociology Post Box (Ground Floor, the Auxilia Building) with a blue cover sheet attached on or before the deadline date. Supplies of cover sheets are available in the Sociology Department. Some lecturers will also require electronic submission.
- 3) You must refer to some reading material assigned for the course. Reading beyond the assigned material (if allowed by the lecturer) will be interpreted favourably only if you show clearly how it relates to themes and issues covered in the lectures.
- 4) Essays must be carefully referenced, showing the sources for any information or argument you refer to. A list of references should be appended, listing all sources referred to in the essay, including internet sources.
- 5) It is imperative that your essay referencing and bibliography adhere to the style guidelines described in this handbook.
- 6) Please read and take note of the statement on plagiarism in this handbook.
- 7) 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.

#### **14. 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 and citation 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.

#### **15. 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 – we know how to use Google too. 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 – including receiving a 0 (zero). 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.

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 policy guidelines on plagiarism are available at:

[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/MU%20Policy%20on%20Plagiarism%20Updated%20July%202019\\_0.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/MU%20Policy%20on%20Plagiarism%20Updated%20July%202019_0.pdf)

You should note that when you submit work you sign a cover sheet statement that this work is original and does not constitute plagiarism under the Maynooth University Policy on Plagiarism. Any thesis found to be plagiarized in part or whole will be given a mark of zero (0).

## 16. 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](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>

## **17. Venues and Location, Maynooth University**

A comprehensive list of all classroom locations and venues, including timetable codes, can be found at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-services/theatres-classhalls-av-equipment>

## **18. Experiential Learning**

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

### **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](mailto:Aisling.Flynn@mu.ie)

Tel: + 353 1 4747760