



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

## School of Political Science & Sociology Second Year Handbook 2023-24

*This booklet contains (almost) everything you  
need to know!*

**Please read and keep safely**

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#### ***Please Note:***

*Every effort has been made to ensure that the details contained in this booklet are accurate. The School reserves the right to make changes or correct errors as necessary. We will ensure that you are notified if/when a revised/updated version of the Handbook is available.*

## **2BA PROGRAMME TIMETABLE 2023-24**

### **SEMESTER ONE:**

#### **SPSK3101 Politics and Society: Themes and Topics (Core module)**

Brian McGrath (and Colleagues in the small group seminars) **This Core module is taught entirely in weekly, small-group seminar classes which commence in Week 3 of Semester 1. Students must choose TWO options: *one* module from Option 1 and *one* from Option 2:**

#### **(Option 1):**

##### **SP216.I European Politics**

Dr Brendan Flynn

Monday 12.00 (O'Flaherty); Monday 2.00 (O'Flaherty)

**OR**

##### **SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses**

Dr Brian McGrath and Colleagues

Tuesday 12.00 (AMB 1021); Wednesday 12.00 (AMB 1021)

#### **(Option 2):**

##### **SP2116 Sociology of Health**

Dr Vesna Malesevic and Colleagues

Tuesday 2.00 (AMB 1021); Friday 12.00 (O'Flaherty)

**OR**

##### **SP2117 International and Global Politics**

Dr. Evans Fanoulis and Colleagues

Tuesday 2.00 (AUC G002, Aras Ui Chathail); Friday 12.00 (AMB 1023)

### **SEMESTER TWO:**

#### **SPSK3102 Society and Politics: Ideas and Research (Core module)**

(Brian McGrath) **This Core module is taught entirely in weekly, small-group seminar classes which commence in Week 3 of Semester 2.**

#### **SP220 Methods for Social & Political Science (Core module)**

Dr. Mike Hynes and Dr Bernadine Brady

Monday 2.00 (O'Flaherty); Tuesday 12.00 (O'Flaherty)

#### **(Option 3):**

**You must also CHOOSE ONE of the two Option modules:**

##### **SP212 Classical Social Thought**

Dr Lisa Walshe and Colleagues

Wednesday 12.00 (MRA 201, Ryan Institute); Friday 12.00 (IT250)

**OR**

##### **SP215.II Modern Political Thought**

Gerry Fitzpatrick

Wednesday 12.00 (AMB 1021); Friday 12.00 (AMB 1021)

## How Second Year Works...

In second year, unlike the first year experience with the School of Political Science and Sociology, students can - if they wish - choose to specialise in either more 'Political' or more 'Sociological' module choices. This innovative 'Pathway Specialisation' approach allows students to take advantage of the breadth and scope of the modules offered by the School, which cover most of the social and the political sciences. For example in Semester I if you prefer 'the social' to 'the political' side of the School's programme you could then choose to take SP235 (Social Issues) as Option 1 and SP2116 (Sociology of Health) as Option 2; and in Semester II, SP212 (Classical Social Thought) as your Option 3. In contrast, if your interests are more clearly 'political' you could then choose SP216.I (European Politics) as Option 1 and SP2117 (International and Global Politics) as your Option 2; in Semester II, you would then pick as your Option 3, SP215.II (Modern Political Thought).

However, these potential choices are merely indicative and discretionary: one of the School's strengths lies precisely in the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary character of its staff and their modular offerings. Students therefore who wish to avoid a 'Pathway Specialisation' can of course choose to be more catholic in their choices and pick an individually chosen mixture of both the more 'social' and the more 'political' modules in their three Options. In other words, in all three Option choices, it is entirely up to you, *within the limitations imposed by necessary and unavoidable number capping restrictions*, to choose which module you prefer in each of your three possible Option selections. Therefore, *if you have strong preferences, you are advised to register for your preferred 'Pathway' as soon as possible*.

Thus to recap in your second year with the School you shall take three Core modules – SPSK3101, SPSK3102 and SP220 – and three Option choices: 1 Core and 2 Options in Semester I; and 2 Core and 1 Option in Semester II

We hope to be able to satisfy the wishes of the vast majority of our students but unfortunately because of capping restrictions, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to enrol in all your preferred Option choices.

(Most **Connect students** must choose between two possibilities: either to take TWO Options in Semester I and only Cores in Semester II; or ONE Option in Semester I and then also ONE Option in Semester II. Overall as a Connect you shall thus be taking THREE Core and TWO Option modules. **Major/Minor** students will consult their specific degree programme regulations to ascertain which module options are available to choose.)

In relation to the seminar-based modules, SPSK3101 and SPSK3102, students shall in Semester I be divided into **four separate seminar streams, A, B, C and D** regarding which particular combination of module Options they have chosen - as the seminars are designed to amplify and underscore through innovative and participatory teaching the themes being covered in the modular lecture series. In semester II as there are

only two possible variations (SP212 or SP215.II), there shall in effect only be two streams.

*(BA2 results are worth 30% of your final degree classification.)*

Each semester you take 3 modules: 1 Core and 2 Options in Semester I - and 2 Core and 1 Option in Semester II. See the table below.

You make your own choice from the available Options in each semester and register your choice with the Registration Office as part of your general college registration process. If you have any problems with registration, contact [registration@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:registration@universityofgalway.ie).

**AND**

You also have to register separately with the School for a weekly one-hour seminar that runs across the year. Details of the seminars shall be available later in the separate seminar booklets.

#### 2023-24 Semester Module Schedule

Semester I	Semester II
<b>CORE 1: SPSK3101 Politics and Society: Themes and Topics</b>	<b>CORE 2: SPSK3102 Society and Politics: Ideas and Research</b>
	<b>CORE 3: SP220 Methods for Social and Political Science</b>
<b><u>Pick one from:</u></b>	<b><u>Pick one from:</u></b>
<b>OPTION 1:</b> SP216.I European Politics (Pol.) OR SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses (Soc.)	<b>OPTION 3:</b> SP212 Classical Social Thought (Soc.)  OR SP215.II Modern Political Thought (Pol.)
<b>And</b>	
<b><u>Pick one from</u></b>	
<b>OPTION 2:</b> SP2116 Sociology of Health (Soc.)  OR SP2117 International & Global Politics (Pol.)	

## Checklist of Dates

- Regular lecture-times are in place from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September**.
- Small group Seminars start the week of **Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> and end November 24<sup>th</sup>** (nine weeks).
- In **week 6** (October 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>) there will be a **READING WEEK** with no seminars or lectures scheduled.

### Module Assessment:

All lecture-based modules are assessed through: (a) exam, (70%); (b) a written essay (30%). The two core seminar-based modules are assessed entirely through a variety of coursework and continuous assessment methods. **You are required to pass all modules in Year 2 in order to progress into Year 3 and an overall mark of 40% is required to pass each module.**

### Lecture/Seminar Attendance

Your responsibility as a student is to attend all lectures and seminars. Lectures are an integral part of the learning process. The seminars are specially designed to deepen your learning and knowledge and are also an integral part of the learning process. Historians of our School would ascertain at least one fact: students who attend lectures and seminars consistently perform better than those who don't.

### Seminar Registration

The small-group seminars begin on the week of **Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> and registration and details of how to register for them will be given via Canvas for SPSK3101**. Please note that seminars are an **obligatory Core** modular requirement for most students with the exception of Visiting and Erasmus students - and some Major/Minors.

IN **SEMESTER 2**, LECTURES BEGIN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER on **January 8th** AND SMALL-GROUP *SEMINARS* BEGIN **Week - Commencing January 22<sup>nd</sup> until Week-Ending March 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

## **School Policies regarding the submission of Coursework:**

**Feedback timeframe policy:** Normally, assignments should be marked 3 weeks from the submission deadline.

**Late submission policy:** Penalty applied for late submission is 2% per day late off the mark originally awarded up to a period of 10 working days late (not including weekends).

**Extension policy:** Any Extension request must be based upon a Medical Cert. or supporting relevant documentation. The minimum limit is 1 working day late, the maximum limit is 7 working days (excluding Study Week and the exams period, excepting the very last day of the examinations).

## **School Categorical Marking Scheme:**

These categorical marks are applied only at the level of assessed components (and NOT overall modular marks) to foster consistency across the programme and achieve a better distribution of marks across degree grades.

<i>Fail:</i>	0, 25, 35
<i>Pass:</i>	42, 45, 48
<i>Lower Second:</i>	52, 55, 58
<i>Upper Second:</i>	62, 65, 68
<i>First:</i>	72, 75, 78

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

The University of Galway Academic Integrity Policy is available here:  
[QA220-Academic-Integrity-Policy-Final.pdf \(universityofgalway.ie\)](#)

As the Policy states, 'Academic misconduct is any attempt to gain or help others gain an unfair academic advantage'. This can be 'intentional or inadvertent', and can be committed in a variety of ways (University of Galway 2022).

The following examples of academic misconduct are quoted from the University Policy (please note that this is not an exhaustive list):

- 'Submitting work as your own for assessment, which has, in fact, been done in whole or in part by someone else'.
- 'Cheating in exams (e.g., crib notes, copying, using disallowed tools, impersonation)'.
- 'Cheating in projects (e.g., collusion; using 'essay mills' to carry out the allocated part of the project)'.

- ‘Self-plagiarism where you submit work which has previously been submitted for a different assignment without permission/acknowledgement’.
- ‘Posting advertisements for services which encourage contract cheating either physically or virtually’.
- ‘Submitting all or part of an assessment item which has been produced using artificial intelligence (e.g. Google Translate or other machine translation services/software, AI essay writing service etc.) and claiming it as your own work.’

**Source:**

**University of Galway (2022) ‘QA220 Academic Integrity Policy’, available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registrar/docs/QA220-Academic-Integrity-Policy-Final.pdf>**

# CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

In 2BA1, you take 3 core, 3 option modules: ONE core and TWO options in Semester I; and TWO cores and ONE option in Semester II.

## Small-Group SEMINARS

**Students are required to attend the small-group seminars once a week for nine weeks in each semester.**

You are **required** to register for a seminar group using our registration process (details of how to register will be given via Canvas announcements).

### What is the Purpose of the Seminars?

The seminar supports and extends the learning in the modules. The format involves small numbers of students meeting weekly, to encourage group discussion and debate around selected themes and individual and group-work exercises. They are designed specifically to help you develop your critical thinking and presentation skills.

### How do they work?

Prior to the seminars starting you will be given a **Seminar Guide**, detailing the discussion/essay and classwork themes. There will also be **READINGS made available electronically** (with a selection of extracts from the recommended literature for each module) at the beginning of each semester. This Guide contains every bit of information you need to know about the seminars. The Readings contains a set of assigned readings which shape discussion for six weeks of your seminars and are connected to the modular content of your two chosen lecture-based modules. Each seminar will be as good as you make it. Seminars are NOT lectures: the more you put in, the more you will get out.

### How are Modules assessed?

Of the 100% mark for each lecture-based module, the assessment is based on 70% from the exam and 30% from your essay. The two core seminar-based modules are graded at 100% from the various types of continuous assessment.

**You are obliged to produce two essays per semester – one for each lecture-based module.** Please note your seminar leader is happy to assist you with any difficulties you are having in relation to course work and essay writing. NOTE, TOO, ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA TURNITIN (AS IN 1<sup>st</sup> YEAR). FULL DETAILS RE THIS WILL BE FURNISHED TO YOU VIA E-MAIL



### **Small-Group Seminar (SPSK3101 and SPSK3102)**

Prerequisites: None

Min./max. no. of students: The class is split into small groups (15 to 20) for seminars

Seminar Tutor: Staff Member

Teaching and learning methods: Each week various continuous assessment exercises shall be engaged upon and/or readings related to the relevant lecture modules discussed.

Methods of assessment: These seminar-based modules are assessed entirely on the basis of attendance /participation and various Continuous Assessment exercises.

Languages of instruction: English      Core texts: Assigned readings and exercises.

Note: Students may remain in the same seminar group for both semesters unless there is a need to change for option-choice reasons.

### **MODULE DESCRIPTIONS - SEMESTER 1 AND SEMESTER 2**

**Below are short module descriptions, giving a brief overview of module contents and methods of assessment. Full course outlines will be available on the School's website.**

## **Module Descriptions**

### **Semester 1**

#### **CORE Module:**

#### **SPSK3101 Politics and Society: Themes and Topics**

This interdisciplinary, largely seminar-based module enables students to engage in-depth with key ideas and themes that shape understanding and experience of social issues and the exercise of power in contemporary societies in a context of globalisation. Using a participatory approach that fosters skills development, students examine some of today's major challenges such as tackling inequalities in wealth and poverty within and between countries; safeguarding human rights, especially of those at risk of marginalisation or discrimination (related to age, disability, gender or ethnicity); preventing and ending violent conflict and building peace; responding to refugee crises; respecting diversity and advancing social inclusion; and protecting the environment and mitigating climate change. Contemporary challenges to democratic government and the role of the state in meeting the social and economic needs of the people are also examined: for example, the influence of 'free market' ideas on social protection and welfare policies; the changing role of the nation-state in international affairs; new forms of populism; the social and political effects of social media; and the 'democratic deficit' in international governance (e.g., EU and UN). The module will be delivered mainly in small-group format with group-work activities aimed at building participants' confidence and teamwork and communication skills, which are also essential workplace skills. In-class activities, grounded in module themes and topics,

further build key skills for learning, including information retrieval, critical analysis, and written and spoken presentation skills.

**You choose from ONE of the following two modules:**

**EITHER**

**Module: SP216.I European Politics**

Lecturer: Dr. Brendan Flynn

This module explores European politics through a broadly comparative perspective. It first addresses the strategic developments of the last decade and beyond, starting with the end of the cold war in the early 1990s, and the new security frameworks emerging today. We then discuss European nationalism, examining this issue in the context of Spain and the collapse of Yugoslavia. This is followed by lectures on the wider significance of German re-unification. In the second part of the course, we will use a regional framework of analysis. Here we will examine the Nordic democracies, the Mediterranean states, the newly established and struggling democracies of central Europe and the smaller European democracies such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, and Austria. Finally in the last section of the course we will examine some comparative trends: European electoral behaviour, Europe's various distinctive styles of governance, and the rise of political extremist movements across Europe in the last few years.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures. Students must take part in the semester 1 general seminars as described below.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings

**OR**

**Module: SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses**

Lecturers: Dr. Brian McGrath & Colleagues.

For students of Sociology and Politics, a particularly relevant field of study concerns people's welfare and wellbeing; and the purpose and role of social policy in addressing complex issues. Drawing on the School's strengths in its research and teaching programmes concerning welfare, policy analysis and professional/activist work, the purpose of this module is to introduce and examine a *selective* range of contemporary issues relating to: gender and equality, families and their support, children and their protection and rights. It is concerned with the effect of policies, particularly on more vulnerable groups in society. It provides a range of perspectives from important social policy fields of: social work; family support; social/political activism/advocacy; and community based approaches. The policy responses to the welfare issues we explore

reflect distinctive approaches but similar principles, grounded in equality, human rights and social justice. This module is structured around three core themes:

- Introduction to Policy and Concepts
- Gender, Equality, Rights and Policy
- Family Support & Policy and Children's Rights, Child Protection & Policy

Reading: Core readings for each week will be identified and additional readings will be listed.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings for each week.

**You also choose ONE of the following two modules.**

## **EITHER**

### **Module: SP2116 Sociology of Health**

Lecturer. Dr. Vesna Malesevic

In this module students will engage in sociological understanding of health and illness with emphasis on the social/political/economic/cultural factors that affect conceptualisation and lived-out experience of health and illness. Study of health and illness will cover the individual, societal and institutional levels with particular exploration of intersections between health, gender, sexuality, religion, and human rights.

Essential books:

Annandale, E. (2014). *The Sociology of Health and Medicine*, Polity [ISBN: 9780745634623]

Nettleton, S. (2021). *The Sociology of Health and Illness*, Polity [ISBN: 9781509512744]

### **Reading:**

The module is built around a series of core texts, with additional readings for essay / exam preparation (see course outline and reading list).

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Languages of instruction: English

## **OR**

**Module:** SP2117 International and Global Politics

**Lecturer:** Dr. Evans Fanoulis and Colleagues

The module aims at introducing you to the world of concepts, actors, events and theoretical approaches of international and global politics, with a primary focus on questions of peace, war, security and conflict. By the end of the semester, you will understand key concepts such as the nation-state and the international system as well as the main theoretical schools in international relations such as realism, liberalism and constructivism. You will be able to understand the role of international and regional organisations in the context of multilateral diplomacy. It also considers the role of non-state actors such as NGOs like Amnesty International or Greenpeace, and multinational corporations.

### **Reading:**

#### **Main Texts:**

**The Hardiman Library has been notified to make all the texts below available:**

Burchill, S. et al., eds (most recent edition), *Theories of International Relations*, New York: Palgrave.

Baylis, J. et al., eds (most recent edition), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dunne, T. et al., eds (most recent edition), *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Edkins, J. and Zehfuss, M., eds (most recent edition), *Global Politics: A New Introduction*, London: Routledge.

Kaarbo, J. and Ray, J. (most recent edition) *Global Politics*, Boston, MA: Cengage Learning

### **Assessment**

This module is assessed by final exam (70%) and essay (30%).

**For students enrolled in SPSK3101**, details of essay topics and submission will be available through your seminar group commencing week 3.

**For students not enrolled in SPSK3101** information and guidance on the essay assignment will be provided by the Module Coordinator after week 3.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Teaching and Learning Method:** Lectures

**Method of assessment and examination:** Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted in semester 1 through the small-group seminars as described above.

Language of instruction: English

## **Module Descriptions – Semester 2**

### **CORE Modules:**

#### **Module: SPSK3102: Society and Politics : Ideas and Research**

This module aims to enhance the capacity of students to think critically about society and politics; to formulate research questions; and to identify appropriate ways or methods to conduct research and gather the evidence necessary to begin to answer different types of research queries. It also aims to build students' knowledge and confidence in discussing the 'big ideas' of key thinkers in social and/or political theory (e.g., liberty, justice, class conflict, equality, solidarity, rationality, etc.) and to draw on these ideas when thinking about research topics. Informed by these discussions, students further examine how knowledge about social and political life is constructed, including through formulating questions and designing and conducting ethical research that can answer such questions. This student-centred module is organised around the completion of critical thinking and research tasks. Tasks can include the following: close reading, synthesis, and discussion of significant ideas in social and political thought; group work exercises to define a research question and plan; practice research methods (using surveys, interviews, statistics, archival materials); and conduct data analysis and peer reviews. Working in small groups students shall develop deepened skills of critical analysis as they scrutinise taken-for-granted assumptions about society and politics and develop and practise a range of widely used social research skills.

**AND**

#### **Module: SP220 Methods for Social and Political Science**

**Lecturers:** Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Bernadine Brady

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of social science research. The course starts off by providing an overview of the key principles of social research and qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches. Students will learn how to design a research study and develop a research proposal.

The module introduces four specific research methods – surveys / questionnaires, qualitative interviews, focus groups and ethnography / participant observation. Students will learn about good practice in undertaking each method and the benefits and challenges associated with each approach. Participants also will be introduced to techniques for qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Methods of sampling (i.e. choosing participants to take part in research) and the ethical issues arising in social and political research are also explored.

#### **Learning outcomes:**

After successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- Understand key social research terms and concepts

- Appreciate the merits and challenges associated with qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method studies
- Describe the main features of four key research methods used by social and political scientists
- Develop a proposal for a small-scale research study
- Undertake a basic analysis of qualitative or quantitative data
- Identify ethical issues that may arise in social research and the responsibilities of researchers in this regard.

**Methods of assessment and examination:** Mid-term MCQ exam (30%), two hour end of term exam (70%). Students will develop a Research proposal as part of the SPSK3102 module which will complement their learning in this module.

**Languages of instruction:** English

**Core text:** Clarke, T., Foster, L., Sloan, L., Bryman, A. (2021) *Bryman's Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**In Semester 2 you will also choose ONE of the following TWO OPTIONS**

## **EITHER**

**Module: SP212 Classical Social Thought**

**Lecturer:** Dr Lisa Walsh and Colleagues

This module provides a broad introduction to classic ideas and debates in the development of sociology and social thought. The writings of Karl Marx (1818-1883), Émile Durkheim (1858-1917) and Max Weber (1864-1920) feature prominently. Each of these thinkers reflects a particular approach or tradition in the study of society. Their ideas have contributed substantially to our understanding of the evolution and the shape of modern societies, including how power operates and how resources are distributed within and across the different parts of society. This module also explores key contributions to social theory with regard to race and gender by important precursors or contemporaries of Marx, Durkheim and Weber, including Harriet Martineau, Frederick Douglass, Jane Addams, Anna J. Cooper, W.E.B. Dubois, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Ida Wells-Barnet.

**Textbooks and General Reading:**

Allan, K (2013) *Explorations in classical sociological theory: seeing the social world*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Los Angeles, SAGE.

Craib, I (2011) *Classical social theory: an introduction to the thought of Marx, Weber, Durkheim and Simmel*. Reprint, Oxford: OUP (NUIG Library 301.01 CRA)

Lemert, C (ed.) (2017) *Social theory: the multicultural, global and classical readings*, 6<sup>th</sup> edn.

Lengermann, P.M. and Niebrugge, G. eds. (1998) *The women founders of sociology and social theory 1830-1930: a text reader*. Long Grove, ILL: Waveland Press Inc. ISBN-10:1-57766-509-0/ISBN-13:978-1-5766-509-0

**Prerequisites:** None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures. Students (with the exception of Visiting/Erasmus students) must take part in the semester 2 general seminars as described in this booklet.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted through the small-group seminars as described in this booklet.

Languages of instruction: English

## OR

Module: **SP215.II Modern Political Thought**

Lecturer: Gerry Fitzpatrick

This module is an introduction to European modern political thought through some of its principal thinkers. It traces the development of thinking about power, politics and the State from the Renaissance to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Its aim is to help you to understand the nature of the history of political thought and how it has shaped and is shaping the modern world. The major themes are political obligation - why and how should we obey the State; and the emergence of the sovereign integrated nation-state as the paradigm polity of political modernity. The main approaches to these questions that we will consider are Renaissance humanism, Social Contractarianism, Utilitarianism, Idealism, Republicanism and democratic Nationalism. The writers covered shall run from Thomas More (early 16<sup>th</sup> Century) to Max Weber and LT Hobhouse (early 20<sup>th</sup> Century). The idea throughout is to examine both the historical context and intentions of all the thinkers analysed - and to assess what they have to say to us about our current political predicaments.

### **Textbooks and General Reading**

Six good general textbooks for this course are

**A Ryan, *On Politics, A History of political Thought* (2012) chs 9-21**

**I. Hampsher-Monk, *A History of Modern Political Thought* (1992)**

**A. Haworth, *Understanding the Political Philosophers* (2004) chs 5-8, 11**

**D Wootton, *Modern Political Thought, Readings from Machiavelli to Nietzsche* (2008)**

**J.S. McClelland, *A History of Western Political Thought* (1996) Parts IV to VI**

**J. Plamenatz, *Man and Society Vols I and II* of the revised (1992) edition**

Other texts to be announced.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching and learning methods: Series of lectures. Students (with the exception of Visiting/Erasmus students) must take part in the semester 2 general seminars as described in this booklet.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour written exam (70%). 30% of marks are awarded for an essay submitted through the small-group seminars as described in this booklet.

Languages of instruction: English

Core texts: Assigned readings/textbook chapters

Languages of instruction: English

### **AIMS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME**

In Second Year you will transition from the Introduction to Sociological and Political Studies to a more demanding range of material, including classical texts and their interpretations, and books and articles grounded in research on specific theoretical, conceptual and substantive issues.

The principal aims of the second year programme are to extend your knowledge of theory, methodology and some of the major issues and debates in social and political studies.

The modules offered over both semesters are designed to build on the introduction to sociology and politics taught in the 1<sup>st</sup> year, and prepare you for more advanced study in 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

The learning objectives for you are:

- to acquire a more extensive knowledge of the principal theoretical foundations of social and political studies.
- to deepen your understanding of both classical and current social and political issues and of how these have been interpreted theoretically and conceptually.
- to gain knowledge and appreciation of methodological approaches to social and political research.
  - to develop a range of critical, analytical and interpretative skills.
  - to build study skills, including critical reading and comprehension, essay writing, discussion, presentations and exam preparation.
  - to develop your capacity for independent thinking and scholarly work
  - to enhance your general intellectual and personal skills in a manner which will benefit you professionally and across your life course.



## **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!**

- In this School we encourage you to take responsibility for your own learning. We cannot do your learning for you.
- You are obliged to attend all lectures and seminars and meet all deadlines as set out. While we give our knowledge and full support across the programme, your critical engagement with ideas, discussions, essay writing, lectures and seminars will make a huge difference to your university experience. We encourage you to take full advantage of what we offer.
- **You are therefore expected to make full use of the Library and to develop your bibliographic skills.** Please read from your reading lists and use books on desk reserve. Library staff will help you with any difficulties.
- In the event of any serious personal difficulties affecting your progress or participation, we encourage you to speak confidentially to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Co-ordinator.
- ***Second Year Results are now worth 30% of your overall degree result: you must therefore assume that your final degree class shall be significantly affected by your second year performance.***
- **Second Year REPEAT students who did not submit seminar essays during the academic year and who have failed Semester I and Semester II *lecture-based* modules cannot submit Continuous Assessment work as part of their SECOND SITTING Examination. Their repeat performance shall thus be assessed entirely by written examination. Therefore, only students with Deferrals may submit essays for the second examination sitting.**
- ***NOTE ALSO THAT SINCE THE ACADEMIC YEAR, 2015/16, SECOND YEAR REPEAT EXAMINATION RESULTS SHALL BE CAPPED AT 40%.***

# Who we are:

**Second Year Co-ordinator:** Brian McGrath

([brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie))

Room 322, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Áras Moyola

**SPSK3101/2 Seminar-based Modules Coordinator:**

Brian McGrath

email: [brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:brian.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie)

## Lecturers:

Brendan Flynn

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### **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Please note that there is a great deal of information available on the School's website, including timetables, course outlines, contact details and online materials.

### **NOTICEBOARD**

Information for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students regarding seminar group allocation, timetabling issues, etc. will be posted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Canvas site of SPSK3101/2 and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Notice Board at the School of Political Science & Sociology, Floor 2, Aras Moyola at the beginning of each semester.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Students are urged to volunteer to become 2<sup>nd</sup>-year representatives, which is an important and responsible position. Students are invited to contact their representatives and/or the year tutor if they have any concerns or wish to raise any issues regarding the School.

### **CANVAS**

Please note that from time to time the School will need to circulate information to all 2BA students and will use lectures and Canvas for this purposes. Please make sure you attend to any notices that circulate via Canvas. **DO NOT IGNORE THEM!**

**Finally, I sincerely hope that your second year will be an enjoyable, academically rewarding and enriching experience**