

Social Justice Module Descriptors – Study Abroad

Autumn Trimester

SSJ10070 Exploring Gender

This Course provides an opportunity for students to engage with central ideas and thinking in gender and feminist theory including gender, power, patriarchy, oppression and identity. Development of concepts of gender in contemporary gender and social theory that challenge the traditional gender/sex binary will be explored. The important relation between theory and practice using the body as a site of interrogations will be examined and oppressive social identity systems including sexism, racism and classism will be challenged. Regulation of the body, sexualities, changing body images, issues of bodily integrity, gender-based violence, consent and agency will be explored using key feminist and gender theory texts. To think through core concepts, questions will be asked around a range of themes such as sexual reproduction and reproductive justice, care, migration, work and privilege. Gendered hierarchies linked to material and structural disadvantage will be explored in a global context and different patriarchal systems will be analysed that have disadvantaged women and enforced rigid gender roles that confine and restrict both women and men.

SSJ20060 Gender and Development

The objective of this module is to enable students to understand the role of gender relations and inequalities in processes of development, both at local and global levels. The module will provide students with the tools to understand and analyse gender relations and inequalities in their myriad forms, and will enable them to consider different approaches to development through a gender lens. The impact of North-South power relations and global inequalities on gender and development, the role of the United Nations in establishing and monitoring human rights and development norms and principles, and the intersections between local and global feminisms will be explored throughout. The module will address topics and issues such as economics, poverty, development, sexuality and sexual health, gender based violence and the role of men and masculinities. Overall, the module will provide students with critical conceptual and analytical tools for understanding and aiming to transform gender relations within an unequal world.

SSJ20150 Political Economy and Social Justice

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to a political economy approach, focusing on the intersection between politics and economics in understanding our society. It provides students with an appreciation of the analytical methods, key concepts and theoretical frameworks of political economy. The module examines key theorists of political economy and how they have understood the nature and politics of modern capitalist economies. The module also deals with key issues in the contemporary economy, such as economic inequality and austerity. The module takes a social justice perspective, emphasising issues of power and inequality in how we understand social, political and economic changes.

SSJ30030 Disability and Equality

The purpose of this module is to explore disability as an equality issue. The module discusses current theories or models of disability and analyses the economic, political, social and cultural implications of these differing perspectives. The impact of the modern disability movement and the emergence of disability as a socio-political phenomenon are examined. In the context of equality, differing approaches to research and legislation in the field of disability are explored. Particular attention is

also given to issues of impairment, gender, employment patterns and minority social status with regard to how these interact with disability.

SSJ30070 Gender, War and Violence

This module examines the gendered dimensions of war and violence. War and Violence trauma experienced by women is often made invisible in national, historic and post conflict narratives. We will explore and critique some basic gendered assumptions of war and violence. We will look at how wars, genocides and other forms of political/gendered violence have been narrated and represented by men and women? How do (written, oral or visual) testimonies, including memoirs, diaries, oral histories, documentary sources, challenge or reinforce the hegemonic accounts of violence and war? We will also consider different categorisations of gendered experience (home front/battle front; male/female); using case studies from such diverse sites of war/violence as the Irish revolutionary struggle 1910-1922, femininities, masculinities, sexualities, and gendered violence in the wartime propaganda, the violence of institutionalisation (Industrial Schools, Magdalen Laundries) in 20th century Ireland, Holocaust memories, 1990's Balkans wars, post-troubles Northern Ireland and the Peace Process, and gendered nature of war and violence, especially sexual violence, in sites of on-going conflict around the world.

SSJ30080 Masculinities

This is an inter-disciplinary module that takes a critical look at the studies of men, masculinities and gender relations. It is aimed at men and women from a wide variety of disciplines who are interested in gender, masculinities and gender equality. This course draws upon the assumption that masculinity is an organizing principle of society, which shapes ideologies and practices, and intersects with factors such as race, ethnicity, social class and sexuality. There are multiple versions of masculinities and forms of "being a man" presented not only at different times and in different cultures, but also within the same society. These versions of masculinity coexist within power relations, hierarchical positions in society, and within negotiations and intersections between femininities and masculinities. This course introduces the field and current topics such as multiple masculinities; male friendship; "machismo"; racialised manhood; heterosexual, "metrosexual" and gay masculinities; violence and gender inequality; non-western masculinities; men at work; male health and wellbeing; "new masculinities" and popular culture. Particular attention will be devoted to the study of men and masculinity in the context of globalization, social inequality and international migration.

Spring Trimester

SSJ10020 Global Justice

The objective of this module is to equip students with a clear understanding of and critical perspective on global injustices. We will cover a range of related topics, which will normally include global poverty and inequality; colonialism and post-colonialism; debt and development; neoliberal capitalism; trade, transnational corporations and international tax justice; global gender relations; the global fashion industry; migration; 'race' and racism; and environmental justice and climate change. The module will encourage and enable students to analyse inequalities across the economic, political, social and cultural spheres of global society, and to think critically about relations of power at a global level. The module will also explore the role of different groups and institutions in creating or challenging systems of global inequality, including the International Financial Institutions, the United Nations, the G8, transnational corporations, the media, development agencies, NGOs, and social movements.

In addition, we will explore the ways in which development and global justice issues are represented within a European context. Students will be encouraged to reflect upon their own role within global social systems, as global citizens and future professionals. Ways of potentially creating a more sustainable and egalitarian world will be explored throughout.

SSJ10060 Inequality in Irish Society

Despite significant increases in income and wealth over the past two decades, Ireland is often described as one of the most deeply unequal societies within the European Union. Why has this happened? How do we explain the persistence of injustices in a relatively wealthy country like Ireland and how can we bring about change?

The aim of this course is to enable students to develop a critical understanding of inequalities in Irish society and to identify ways of addressing these. It will use a range of academic materials and sources from different disciplines, including online resources, to develop a critically informed orientation. The course will be taught through a series of lectures and seminars. The active participation of students will be encouraged through dialogue and discussion.

The course has three main objectives: 1) It will map inequalities in Ireland for different social groups to enable students to understand the scope and depth of injustices; 2) It will provide students with conceptual frameworks to enable them to analyse the roots of these inequalities; and 3) It will identify frameworks for action that will promote social justice and respect for all in Ireland.

SSJ20110 Gender, Power and Politics

This module explores the ways in which power has been gendered, where gender has served as a basis for power, regulation and control, as well as the basis for political inclusion / exclusion. There is a focus on issues of key historical, political, and socio-cultural issues from the 1st to the 3rd waves of feminism, concentrating on identities, politics, political activism, sexualities and citizenship. The module will address the social construction of gender, the relation between feminist theory and activism, and how modern society has responded to issues of citizenship, power, race, class, gender and sexualities. There will be an examination of gender relations in Ireland, the changing constructions of masculinities and femininities and the gendered nature of power.

SSJ20160 Race and Racism

It is now accepted that race is a social construct rather than a meaningful scientific category yet racism remains one of the most serious societal challenges in Ireland and globally. This module will provide students with the theoretical and conceptual tools to critically examine racism as a form of structural and systemic oppression and to interrogate the uses to which race and other racialised concepts have been put in shaping and maintaining unequal social relations, historically and in contemporary societies. Students will examine the intersection of racism with other forms of oppression and will look critically at approaches utilised in anti-racist activism and organising. Throughout the module students will engage with critical theories and empirical research on race, racism and anti-racism. By the end of the module students will have developed their understanding of the causes, consequences and possible solutions to racism.

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Autumn Trimester

SPOL10010 Social Policy Theories and Concepts

This module introduces students to some of the core, recurring concepts and theories employed in Social Policy. Students will learn about the historical development of social policy as a subject and the different research methods and major studies associated with it. The module will focus on some of the following key concepts: well-being and welfare; welfare states, systems and regimes; social exclusion, poverty, and inequality; redistribution; universalism and selectivity; stigma; care; autonomy; disability; gender and the family. It also introduces students to broader philosophical ideas such as justice; equality; needs and rights. Concepts are abstract ideas we use to understand, explain and analyse. Many of them are interconnected, such as poverty and inequality. The module will involve tasks which enable students to learn to understand concepts and how they are related to each other.

SPOL10030 Understanding Social Problems and Policies

This module seeks to equip you with basic research and analytical skills that are needed to understand and respond to social policy problems. Its main focus is on statistical data available in online databases that are widely used to describe such problems and design policy solutions to them. You will learn about major relevant databases for Ireland and the EU and will receive guidance and hands-on experience on how to access those databases, search through them for data on specific social policy topics, select and extract particular relevant indicators into Excel spreadsheets, present the data in graphs and tables, and write brief descriptive commentaries on what the data reveal. For illustrative purposes, the module will focus on unemployment as a representative social problem and will concentrate on analysis of that problem and policy responses to it in Ireland and in the EU.

SPOL10180 History of Irish Social Policy

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the range and scope of social policy analysis by showing how the subject has developed over time. The module covers the history and development of Irish social policy. It examines how social change has influenced and has been influenced by social policy developments since the nineteenth century.

SPOL20050 Economics of Social Policy

This course is about the relationship between economics and social policy. It introduces students to the basic principles of economics, and to how the framework derived from them can be applied to the analysis of social justice, the welfare state, and areas of social policy such as employment, education, health, housing and transport.

SPOL20210 Investigating Social Services

This module seeks to examine how one assesses the quality of social services, that is, how one works out how good they are at doing their job. It focuses in particular on the difference between an inputs-oriented versus outcomes-oriented approach to the analysis of social services and applies this framework to particular social services in Ireland and other OECD countries.

The module will begin with three weeks of lectures on the general characteristics of service evaluation, with particular reference to the performance-oriented approach. From week 4 onwards, the class will break up into smaller groups. Each group will focus on a particular social service area and, for a mid-term assignment, each member of the group will write a 1,500 word essay on the development of policy in that area. Working collectively, each group will then seek to work out what it would mean to analyse that service in an outcomes-oriented way, and will produce a poster in which they present their findings on the service area they have analysed.

SPOL28120 Comparing Welfare States

This module introduces students to comparative welfare states, by exploring current debates in theorising and conceptualising about welfare regimes in Europe and Asia from a comparative perspective. Comparative social policy is then applied to specific countries and specific policy areas.

SPOL30010 Policy-Making, Implementation and Evaluation

This module introduces students to public policy with a focus on social policy programmes. You will learn about the policy cycle, key theories at each stage of policy making, implementation and evaluation and how they are applied in a series of case studies of Irish social policy. This module addresses the following questions, which are fundamental to the analysis of social policies:

- why do governments introduce social policies to address some social problems and not others?
- What are the factors which influence decisions regarding the design of these social policies?
- Why do the outcomes achieved by social policies often differ from their objectives?
- And how can we evaluate social policies and reform them to ensure that they are more effective in future?

In this module the extensive international literature on each of these issues is examined and applied to the analysis of a number of case studies of contemporary Irish social policies.

SPOL38190 Child abuse, Sexual and Domestic Violence

This module addresses contemporary thought on child abuse, child sexual abuse, sexual violence, domestic violence and prostitution in Ireland and includes an overview of the social and justice responses to these problems. Drawing on social justice and human rights frameworks to critically appraise the key themes, the module aims to equip students with a working knowledge of the issues involved. The module draws on a range of empirical data, psychological and sociological theory and

practice experience to consider the parameters of these issues in Ireland in an international context. The module is designed in such a way as to create an opportunity for critical engagement with the course material. The didactic lecture format is interspersed with guest lectures, given by a number of very experienced practitioners currently providing services within the child abuse and domestic and sexual violence systems in Ireland.

SPOL38210 Migration, Racism and Irish Society

Racism, Migration and Irish Society draws primarily on conceptual literature on racism and research on the experiences of different groups including asylum seekers and refugees, Africans, Muslims. It examines the impacts of different levels of (stratified)rights and entitlements on migrants from EU and non-EU countries living in Ireland. It examines anti-racism measures. Core questions addressed by the module include how and to what extent are immigrants outsiders within Irish society and to what extent is racism contribute to the exclusion and marginalisation of particular groups.

SPOL38220 Family Policy in Comparative Perspective

This module examines the development and impact of family policies in Western Europe. The module begins with a conceptual and theoretical introduction to family policy as a sector of the welfare state, examining the goals and policy tools that are typical for liberal, social democratic, and christian democratic/conservative welfare regimes. The module then considers the development and impact of family policy in three welfare regimes: Germany, Sweden, and Great Britain.

Spring Trimester

SPOL10020 Contemporary Irish Welfare State

This module provides an introduction to the main areas of contemporary Irish social policy. This includes the 'four pillars' of the system (social protection; health; education; and housing) but also an overview of key aspects of social work as they relate to social policy. The module presents an overview of current policy in each of the areas and students are required to think analytically about each of the key policies, assessing their performance relative to particular goals. Students are introduced to key data sources (mainly on-line) to enable you to draw on readily available sources of information to update your knowledge and assessment of various social policy schemes and programmes.

SPOL18130 Introduction to Social Work

This module consists of 22 lectures held over the course of the semester on Mondays and Wednesdays. The lectures will provide insight and understanding into the role of the Social Worker and some of the principles associated with Social Work. This will be done through a mix of lectures from the module coordinator and practicing social workers who have been invited in to describe 'A Day in the Life of Social Work' as told from the point of view of their area of expertise to include but not limited to, child protection, medical social work, mental health social work, international social work, disability, drug issues and so on.

SPOL20260 Social Protection: Security, Work and Poverty

This module explores the income maintenance function of the Irish welfare state in the OECD context. It examines why and how states provide income supports for individuals and households, what direct effects these supports have on incomes and living standards, what indirect effects they may have by way of incentives for certain kinds of behaviour (e.g. in promoting employment), and how they relate to services that might provide alternative means of supporting well-being (e.g. childcare, job-training). The module considers income support for childhood, working age and old age separately and introduces various means to achieve this goal beyond core welfare state schemes (tax, social insurance, private/informal protection). Welfare benefits discussed in the module include, for instance, parental leave, childcare vouchers, student grants/loans, jobseeker's allowance, family income supplement, pensions and long-term care payments. Particular attention is paid to current welfare debates on 'social investment', 'activation', 'new social risks' and 'individualisation'.

SPOL20280 Housing Policies, Neighbourhoods and Homes

Housing not only provides shelter it has many other important social and economic functions. It impacts on the wellbeing of individuals and families and the cohesion of neighbourhoods. Housing provision is costly for governments and households but it is an important asset, source of tax revenue and of employment. Therefore housing also has important implications for social inequality, economic efficiency and community cohesion.

This module examines the development of housing policy in Ireland since the 1980s and explores the implications of these policies for social inequality, community cohesion and economic efficiency. It is divided into three parts.

The opening lectures examine relevant policy developments in the 1980s such as reforms to the regulation of mortgage lending and the provision and funding of social housing for low income households.

The module then examines the house price boom which commenced in the early 1990s and ended in a bust of unprecedented scale in 2007. These lectures focused in particular on the role which policy played in stimulating the boom.

The closing part of the lectures examine the housing market bust which commenced in 2007, the socio-economic impact of this bust and the effectiveness of government responses.

SPOL28110 Social Work in Practice

This module consists of 12 lectures and 10 hours of small group seminars. The lectures will introduce students to some of the concepts and issues in relation to the practice of social work. Topics will include the social worker's role in different practice settings e.g. medical settings; the child welfare and protection system; mental health settings; probation. The seminars will introduce students to social work interviewing skills, using a variety of approaches including experiential exercises and some role play, with a focus on reflective learning.

SPOL28140 EU Social Policy

This module explores the origins, development, and effects of EU social policy. Unlike other policy areas, the EU possesses limited authority and capacity concerning social policy. Indeed, the 1957 Treaty of Rome envisioned a very limited role for the EU in social policy. Despite this weak treaty basis, the EU now shares authority with the member states in many fields of social policy, including workplace health and safety, pensions, employment and health care. The module examines these developments by focusing on the impact of judicial policy-making, the constraints of the Internal Market, and the expansion of 'soft coordination' in several social policy areas. Among the issues and themes the module will address are: the legal bases of EU social policy; social policy in the context of EMU and the single market; and the impact of the Euro-crisis on the prospects for further social policy development at the EU level.

SPOL30220 Social Policy, Social Justice and the Environment

This module examines the economic, social and environmental challenges facing communities and households. Environmental issues include those associated with climate change but also other environmental problems (e.g. air and water pollution, flooding and drought, storm damage, biodiversity loss). Questions of environmental justice are explored. This includes examining the extent to which environmental costs and burdens are experienced by different groups. The module is particularly concerned with examining and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups in society, such as those on low incomes, those with a disability and/certain ethnic minorities. The module explores a range of responses to social and environmental 'risks'. Much of the module focuses on developing more sustainable communities through a) housing, planning and land use; b) transport; c) employment; d) health; and e) education. The assignment for the module enables students to learn more about their own community and its sustainability by writing a profile of the area.

SPOL38200 Analysing Health and Social Care Policy

This course is designed for students who would like to explore and examine various themes in health and social care systems with a particular focus on policy, organisations, technology and culture. It aims to introduce the students to the workings of the health and social care systems in different societies, while providing a strong background in the analytical frameworks of comparative social policy.

The module deals with questions such as the following:

- How are our health and social care systems organised?
- How can we assess our health and social care systems?
- What are the key trends/issues that are being addressed in this and other countries?
- What are the unique nature and features of health and social care policy?
- To what extent are our care systems influenced by policy, organisations, technology and culture?

SPOL38270 Gender, Inequality and Social Policy

Over the course of this module students begin to develop their learning about the concept of gender and the contribution of gender studies to the discipline of social policy and comparative social policy analysis. Students also begin to develop more fully their understanding of gendered typologies of welfare states and the importance of varieties of capitalism to gender inequalities in work organisations and families. Students also begin to develop more fully their understanding of the concept of patriarchy in both its familial and non-familial meanings and ideas about post-patriarchal welfare states. Students also begin to gain an understanding of the concept of hegemonic masculinities and how this concept is applied in debates on men's health and major issues effecting men such as suicide. Students also begin to develop more fully their grasp of concepts such as decommodification, defamilisation and de-motherization and how the concept of care is becoming increasingly significant to the way policy makers think about mothers and fathers as workers, carers and social citizens require policies to balance work and family life. Students will learn about prevailing approaches to measuring gender inequalities including the use of indicators. They will also learn about contemporary theories surrounding work and motherhood including preference theory and the role of religion. The module offers a comparative overview with a particular focus on the institutional roles of employers, welfare states, state feminism and organised women's movements in reducing gender inequalities and promoting egalitarian welfare ideologies.