

Introduction to Irish Government and Politics

Section A: Headline Information							
Module title			Introduction to Irish Government and Politics				
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)			Level 7				
Module number/reference			TBC				
Module Co-ordinator			Dr. John McHugh				
Parent programme(s)			BA in Applied Social Studies (Professional Social Care)				
Stage of parent programme			Stage 1				
Semester (semester1/semester2 if applicable)			Semester 2				
Module credit units (FET/HET/ECTS)			ECTS				
Module credit number of units			5				
List the teaching and learning modes			Lectures, tutorials, seminars, field trips				
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)			College Entry Requirements must be satisfied for entry onto Stage 1.				
Pre-requisite module titles			N/A				
Co-requisite module titles			None				
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)			No				
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff (staff includes workplace personnel who are responsible for learners such as apprentices, trainees and learners in clinical placements)			Module co-ordinators, lecturers and tutors must have a minimum Level 9 qualification in the relevant discipline or a closely cognate area. The specific requirements of professional bodies (e.g. CORU) must be taken into consideration when meeting the staffing requirements of the programme.				
Maximum number of learners per module			120				
Duration of the module			1 Semester				
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week (see * below)			2.3 hours				
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)			Lecture Hall, Small Group work Room				
Analysis of required learning effort							
Effort while in contact with staff							
Classroom and demonstrations	Mentoring and small-group tutoring	Other (specify)	Directed e-learning (hours)	Independent learning (hours)	Other hours (specify)	Work-based learning hours of learning effort	Total effort (hours)

Hours	Minimum ratio teacher/learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher/learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher/learner			Review of current affairs through media		
24	1:40	4	1:10				72	25		125 hours
Allocation of marks (within the module)										
			Continuous assessment		Supervised project		Proctored practical examination		Proctored written examination	Total
Percentage contribution			100%: Essay Plan 20% Essay 60% In-class Exam 20%							100%

Section B: Module Descriptor	
Rationale for Inclusion of the Module in the Programme and its Contribution to the Overall IPLOs	This module sets Social Care and Community Work in the wider context of the Public Administration system in Ireland. It explores connections between political action, policy making and service provision and in doing so aims to enhance learners' sense of citizenship and develop their understanding of the structure and function of politics in Ireland.
Module Aims and Objectives	The module aims to engage learners in developing an awareness of their own 'world view' and to begin to objectively assess the impact of government structure, function and action on the lives of citizens with particular reference to marginalised and disadvantaged groups and individuals.
Minimum Module Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, learners should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and functions of national and local government in Ireland. (MIPLO 2,7) 2. Trace the development of the main political parties and movements in Irish politics. (MIPLO 2, 7)) 3. Examine and evaluate public policy against the backdrop of these structures and functions. (MIPLO 1,2) 4. To engage in active citizenship in the context of representative democracy with particular reference to voting and voter education. (MIPLO 7)

Information Provided to Learners about the Module	<p>College Prospectus specifies module name, stage and ECTS.</p> <p>College website and programme handbook to contain (in addition to above) short description of module content, module learning outcomes, prerequisite modules, and assessment mechanisms.</p> <p>Module handbook to contain (in addition to above) schedule of classes and topics, detailed assessment information with titles and submission dates, full bibliography and list of learning resources.</p> <p>Diploma Supplement contains module name, code, stage and ECTS.</p>
Module Content, Organisation and Structure	<p>Introduction: The tasks and functions of ‘the State’. Ireland today, our state, our nation.</p> <p>Irish Government structure and functions: Historical developments, The Separation of Powers – Legislature, Executive, Judiciary.</p> <p>Making legislation: 5 stages from bill to Act; Judicial Review</p> <p>Local Government: structure and functions, responses to local issues, Reform; working with local government - Strategic Policy Committees, Public Participation Network.</p> <p>Active Citizens: Representative democracy, Introduction and critique of voting systems, voting in Ireland (PRSTV), Why vote, How to vote; Women in Politics</p> <p>Campaigning for change – a practical guide to engaging with the political system.</p>
Module Teaching and Learning Strategy	<p>Lectures, Tutorials, discussion forums, Case studies, Group exercises, Field visits to Houses of Oireachtas and Local Council.</p> <p>Learners are encouraged to develop and express their own ‘world view’ through directed active participation in the above</p>
Work-Based Learning and Practice-Placement	<p>N/A</p>
E-Learning	<p>N/A</p>
Specifications for Module Staffing Requirements	<p>One lecturer</p> <p>Staff – learner ratio is typical of a lecture and tutorial format, i.e. 1- 120 and 1-20.</p>
Module Summative and Formative Assessment Strategy	<p>Emphasis on Formative assessment and development of reflexivity with particular reference to socially marginalised groups and individuals. The summative short exam functions as a focusing tool for learners to become familiar with the structure and function of government in Ireland.</p>
Sample Assessment Materials	<p>Essay (1,500 words) and essay plan focusing on linking political action with a social issue identified by the learner.</p> <p>A role of the Social Care/ Community Worker is to bridge the gap between policy makers and vulnerable individuals and groups. Outline, using an example, how you might achieve this.</p> <p>Or</p>

	<p>It is the role of government to ensure that the most vulnerable groups in society are protected.</p> <p>In your essay you should draw on course material and background reading to support your argument. You should use specific examples to illustrate your main points and refer to your knowledge of government and politics where possible.</p> <p>80%</p> <p>Summative 'short question' in class exam 20%</p>
<p>Reading Lists and Other Information Resources</p>	<p>Essential Reading: Chubb, B. (1992). <i>The government and politics of Ireland</i>. London: Longman.</p> <p>Coakley, J., and Gallagher, M. (2005). <i>Politics in the Republic of Ireland</i>. London: Routledge in association with PSAI Press.</p> <p>Dooney, S., & O'Toole, J. (1998). <i>Irish government today</i>. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan.</p> <p>MacCarthaigh, M. (2008). <i>Government in modern Ireland</i>. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration.</p> <p>Other Reading: www.irlgov.ie/ and the other links provided throughout the text offer information about the institutional structures and functions of all aspects of the Irish government machine.</p> <p>Essential Viewing: Learners are encouraged to engage with current affairs media throughout the module. Space for discussion of 'topical issues' is a feature of each lecture.</p> <p>VIDEO: Your guide to how the voting system works in Ireland VIDEO: Irish Politics – the basics https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v8fHk0EIQ4 VIDEO: The President of Ireland, Role and Functions - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-yXO6OCKbM VIDEO: Campaigning for change - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFdwnFYQs_c VIDEO: We Don't Care Less (TD and Senator DVD) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRzpTKLwHhI VIDEO: How the President appoints the Taoiseach https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kILUsBjwX6o VIDEO: Taoiseach Episode 1 Part One https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln6J_PEiyXM</p>
<p>Module Physical Resource Requirements</p>	<p>Lecture hall equipped with Internet, Projector, Speakers. Facilitation of Field-trips to Houses of Oireachtas and Local Authority. Tutorial Spaces equipped for group work.</p>