Introduction to Political Ideology

Section A: Headline Information	
Module title	Introduction to Political Ideology
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	8
Module number/reference	TBC
Module Co-ordinator	John McHugh
Parent programme(s)	Higher Certificate in Social, Political and Community Studies; BA in Social, Political and Community Studies; BA (Honours) in Social, Political and Community Studies.
Stage of parent programme	Stage 1
Semester (semester1/semester2 if applicable)	Semester 1
Module credit units (FET/HET/ECTS)	ECTS
Module credit number of units	5
List the teaching and learning modes	Lectures, tutorials, seminars.
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.
Maximum number of learners per module	25
Duration of the module	1 Semester: 12 weeks
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week (see * below)	2.25 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 demon-strations		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	1:5	4	1:5				72	25		125 hours

Allocation of marks (within the module)					
	Continuous assessment	Supervised project	Proctored practical examination	Proctored written examination	Total
Percentage contribution	30%			70%	100%

Section B: Module Descriptor	
Rationale for Inclusion of the Module in the Programme and its Contribution to the Overall IPLOs	This module introduces learners to the theoretical basis of political ideologies. It explores connections between political ideology, policy 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	To introduce learners to concepts of power, politics and ideology; to enable learners to articulate their own 'world view' and to locate that view within a wider ideological framework; to explore the connections between ideology, politics and policies.
Minimum Module Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, learners should be able to: 1. Articulate their own 'world view'. (MIPLO 5) 2. Identify and critique the main political ideologies across the left/right political spectrum. (MIPLO 1, 3) 3. Examine policy approaches associated with particular ideological approaches. (MIPLO 2, 3, 8) 4. Discuss their profession in a wider ideological framework. (MIPLO 2, 6, 8) 5. Discuss alternatives to dominant political ideological hegemonies. (MIPLO 2, 6, 8)
Information Provided to Learners about the Module	College Prospectus specifies module name, stage and ECTS.

	This module introduces learners to concepts of power, politics and ideology; to enable learners to articulate their own 'world view' and to locate that view within a wider ideological framework; to explore the connections between ideology, politics and policies.
	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.
	Diploma Supplement contains module name, code, stage and ECTS
Module Content, Organisation and Structure	'Although ideologies are concerned with large and distant questions about the best kind of society and the ideal way to live, they are also closely bound up with practical political activity' (Heywood, 2008). The following content is set against this backdrop. What is ideology? – towards a working definition – relating that definition to our own world view. Introduction to Political Ideology: Politics, Parties, Policies. – what difference does an ideological stance make? How does ideology impact on political parties and political action? Power as concept - Lukes' definition of power Left, Right and Centre: The Political Spectrum. – locating political parties on the spectrum. Is it an outdated concept? Ideologies: • Liberalism and Neo-liberalism • Conservatism, • Socialism, • Communism, • Feminism, • Ecologism
Module Teaching and Learning Strategy	Lectures, Tutorials, discussion forums, Case studies, Group exercises. Learners are encouraged to develop and express their own 'world view' through directed active participation in the above.
Work-Based Learning and Practice-Placement	N/A
E-Learning	N/A
Specifications for Module Staffing Requirements	One lecturer and tutor.
Module Summative and Formative Assessment Strategy	Emphasis on summative assessment in percentage terms is balanced with the development of reflexivity with particular reference contemporary social issues. Examination: 70% Continuous Assessment: 30%
Sample Assessment Materials	Sample examination questions: 1. Give a short account of how the left/right spectrum supplies the key to classifying the various types of political and economic systems.

	2. Discuss the statement that Ecologism is not a political ideology in its own right but a corrective to traditional ideologies. Continuous assessment is based on in-class exercises that engage learners in active discussion on 'My political party', 'The Powerdown Show' 'Ideology identifier'.
Reading Lists and Other Information Resources	**Essential Reading:** Haugaard, M. (Ed.) (2005). *Power: A Reade*r. Manchester: Manchester University Press. Heywood, A. (2013). *Politics,* (4th edition). London, Palgrave. Lukes, S. (2005). *Power: A Radical View,* (2nd edition). Basingstoke, Palgrave: Macmillan. Leftwich, A. (2004). 'Thinking Politically: On the Politics of Politics', in A. Leftwich (Ed.) *What is Politics?* (2nd edition). **Other Reading:** Coakley, J and Gallagher, M. (2010). *Politics in the Republic of Ireland*. London: Routledge. Collins, N. and Cradden, T. (2001). *Irish Politics Today*. Manchester, Manchester University Press. **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.
Module Physical Resource Requirements	Lecture hall equipped with Internet, Projector, Speakers Facilitation of Field-trips to Houses of Oireachtas and Local Authority. Tutorial Spaces equipped for group work