



UCD School of Politics and International Relations

Majoring Politics 2017-18

Year 1 (Level 1) Core Modules

Students who completed the following Stage 1 Modules will be able to proceed to Stage 2/3 Politics.

- INRL10010 Foundation of Political Theory & International Relations
- POL10160 Foundations of Contemporary Politics

Year 2 (Level 2) Core Modules

You may choose Politics as

1) Politics Single Major¹ or 2) Joint Major

The following modules are core for all Politics students in the academic year 2017-18.
(Tutorials are attached to all of them.)

Semester 1

- POL20010 Individuals and the State: Social Contract Theory from Hobbes to Rousseau
- POL20020 Comparative Politics

Semester 2

- INRL20040 Theories and Concepts in International Relations
- POL20050 Research Methods in Political Science

1) Politics Single Major ¹	2) Example: Joint Major with Economics
Stage 2 (Year 2)	
Politics: 50 credits <i>4 core modules + 6 option modules</i> Electives: 10 credits	Politics: 25 credits <i>4 core modules + 1 option module</i> Economics: 25 credits Electives 10 credits
Option: Erasmus/JYA Exchange ²	
Stage 3 (Year 3 or 4)	
Politics: 50 credits <i>10 option modules</i> Electives: 10 credits	Politics: 25 credits <i>5 option modules</i> Economics: 25 credits Electives 10 credits

¹ Stage 1 students wishing to take up Politics as a single subject major, should have a B minus (3.2 GPA) average in first year politics modules.

<http://www.ucd.ie/spire/study/currentundergraduatestudents/stageone/>

² The application deadline is the beginning of Semester 2, Year 2. For further information, see

<http://www.ucd.ie/spire/study/currentundergraduatestudents/erasmusandjya/>

N.B. All Politics undergraduate modules are worth 5 credits unless specified otherwise.

List of Modules 2017-18³

Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1 (Level 1)	
INRL10010 Foundation of Pol Theory & Intl Relations POL10160 Foundations of Contemporary Politics	INRL10010 Foundation of Pol Theory & Intl Relations POL10160 Foundations of Contemporary Politics
POL10120 Globalisation and Development	POL10010 Irish Politics
Year 2 (Level 2)	
POL20010 Individuals and the State POL20020 Comparative Politics	INRL20040 International Relations POL20050 Research Methods in Political Science
INRL20080 Irish Foreign Policy POL20180 Capitalism and Democracy POL20190 Contemporary Autocracies POL20230 Political Behaviour	DEV20130 Sustainable Development Goals INRL20160 Introduction to EU Politics POL20060 Law, Politics and Human Rights POL20220 Political Institutions & Development
Year 3/4 (Level 3)	
INRL30020 International Justice INRL30050 Integration, Fragmentation INRL30190 Middle East Politics POL30350 Politics and Policy of the EU POL30370 Justice in Education POL30380 Introduction to Asian Politics POL30430 Data Analytics for Social Science POL30440 Political Risk & Foreign Investment POL30490 Advanced Seminar in Politics 1 POL30540 Parties in Parliament	INRL30080 Gender in War & Peace INRL30130 Internat. Political Economy INRL30300 The EU in the World POL30450 Political Activism in the Middle East POL30500 Advanced Seminar in Politics 2 POL30510 Referendum Studies POL30520 Environmental Pol and Policy POL30530 The Politics of Representation

*We also offer a General Elective, DSCY10010 Global Development Goals in Semester 1 (For elective registration only) and POL20240 Trump, Brexit & Global Politics in Semester 2, a module exclusive to International Exchange students.

For Further Information

School Website: www.ucd.ie/spire

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³ Subject to change. N.B. There is no Level 3 core module.

Module List & Descriptions 2017-18*

*Subject to change

Level 1 Core Modules

INRL10010 Foundation of Foundation of Political Theory & International Relations

Dr Graham Finlay / Dr Tobias Theiler

This module has two parts: an Introduction to Political Theory and an Introduction to International Relations. The first part of the course provides an introduction to political theory, focusing on changing conceptions and models of democracy, mainly through the thought of three challenging and influential political thinkers, Aristotle, Mill and Marx. This part of the module focuses in particular on four key themes: the meaning and relative importance of the political principles of liberty, equality and community; how much political participation there should be; the social pre-conditions for democracy; and to what extent the kind of democracy possible depends on how we think of human nature. The second part of the course offers an introduction to the main issues in contemporary international politics. It first looks at the development of the modern international system, focusing especially on the post-Cold War era. It then examines a range of substantive issues that occupy students of contemporary international politics: war and other forms of inter-state conflict, global trade and communication, migration, economic inequality, global environmental issues, international integration, terrorism, human rights, and the role of multinational corporations and transnational pressure groups. This module is required for any student wishing to take Politics as a major at Stage Two. In addition to the lectures, an essential part of this module are seven tutorials in which students learn through writing essays and exercises and through participating in discussions.

POL10160 Foundations of Contemporary Politics

Dr Eva Wegner

People mean many different things when they talk about 'politics'. Politics can be understood as the collective activity through which we organize the life we share in common, and work to give effect to the values we think are important such as freedom, justice, equality, peace, security. Politics is also the term we use for the practices involved in organizing public life, regulating who gets involved in decision-making and on what terms, and shaping how much influence they get to have over those decisions, whether at local, national or transnational level. And politics is often equated with the clash of preferences between people or groups, and the efforts people make to get their own way, sometimes by very low means indeed. This module introduces a variety of ways of thinking about politics, the role of core political institutions such as parliaments and elections, and provides some of the key concepts and analytical frameworks and tools used in analysing politics.

Level 1 Option Modules

POL10010 Irish Politics

Prof David Farrell

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the workings of the Irish political system. We start by locating Irish politics in comparative terms, showing how unusual a political system it is in comparison to other European states. The course then examines the historical, constitutional, social and political context of Irish politics. It deals with the ground rules within which Irish elections take place, the evolution of the Irish party system, and voting behaviour in elections and referendums. The course examines the operation of the main political institutions: the Dail, the Seanad, the government, the judiciary and major offices such as those of President and

Taoiseach. Other important forums for political activity are also considered. This course will be taught entirely by lectures; there will be no tutorials.

POL10120 Globalisation and Development

Dr Andy Storey

This module is designed to introduce students to key themes in global politics and development. The phenomenon of 'globalisation' - which may be described as the increasing interconnectedness of countries, as manifested through closer trade, investment and other economic ties, as well as through the claimed emergence of a common global culture (sometime seen as the imposition of Western culture on other parts of the world) and shared political values (such as human rights) - will be explored in depth. Critiques of the concept - including arguments that economic globalisation is exaggerated and that parts of the world are becoming more, rather than less, culturally distinctive - will also be examined. The so-called 'downside' of globalisation - including cross-border movement of terrorists, drugs and trafficked migrants - will likewise be addressed. The challenges of politically governing an (at least partially) globalising world economy will be discussed through close analysis of institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations.

Level 1 General Elective

DSCY10010 Global Development Goals

Prof Patrick Paul Walsh

In this unique, multidisciplinary module, taught by academics from different Colleges and different Schools in UCD, students have the opportunity to learn at first hand about global development. The module takes as its focus the United Nations (UN) agenda for sustainable global development that runs from 2015 to 2030. The agenda includes 17 goals that together aim to end poverty, combat climate change and fight injustice and inequality. Students will also hear about research in UCD that will contribute to the achievement of these goals. Taking this module provides an opportunity to learn about topics of critical importance for humanity and the planet. How will I learn?• The module uses a range of approaches to teaching and learning including traditional faculty-led seminars, student presentations, experiential learning, classroom role-play and case studies. There will also be a opportunity to take on line courses with the SDG Academy using <https://courses.sdgacademy.org/>

Level 2 Core Modules

POL20010 Individuals and the State: Classics in Social Contract Theory

Dr Alexa Zellentin

What is the state? Do we need it? Why? Where does its authority come from? Is state authority compatible with individual freedom? If so, just how? This module examines the influential approach that sees individual consent and social contract as the answer to these questions. Those adopting this approach tend to see the state as an artificial entity based on a contract that provides order and protects certain individual rights. But then they have to address issues such as: which come first: individual rights or political order? Is the solution to the problem of order strong government, limited government, or self-government? What really makes political authority legitimate - power, or the consent of the governed? Is it possible to be free under government? Are there good reasons why we should obey government? Can we see society as based on a contract at all? We examine these issues mainly through the arguments advanced by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Rawls, four contrasting thinkers, who significantly influenced the development of western political thought and institutions, and whose arguments still present a challenge today.

POL20020 Comparative Politics

Dr Stephanie Dornschneider

This module introduces students to issues and methods in comparative politics. The first part explores why comparison is important, the problems that arise in doing comparative politics, and the analytical tools that are needed. Part Two shows how a comparative approach has deepened our understanding of issues such as transitions to democracy, violent and non-violent political change, protection of human rights against state power, variations in institutional design and their consequences for democratic performance. These themes are explored drawing on the experiences of many different countries across the world.

INRL20040 Theories and Concepts in International Relations

Dr Tobias Theiler

This course explores the main theoretical strands in the contemporary study of international relations. Students are introduced to several key approaches in the study of international relations, including realism, neorealism, Marxism, liberalism and interdependence theory and democratic peace theory, and to the central empirical questions these seek to address: Are states the only significant actors in world politics? Is the international system constituted in a way that makes war sometimes inevitable? Is the international conduct of many states guided more by economic objectives than by the quest for military security? Are democracies set never to go to war against one another? Is war partially rooted in human psychology? What are the political consequences of growing social and economic interaction between states and societies? What is the role and relevance of international institutions? Does international trade liberalization promote or reduce economic inequality between states?

POL20050 Research Methods in Political Science

Dr Cristina Bucur

As an introduction to the approaches in the empirical study of politics, this course will give an overview of both qualitative and quantitative research methods in political science. The course is divided in two halves: the first half will be an introduction to empirical research, discussing the role of theories and hypotheses, of concepts, of measurement, and of overall research designs, and will focus in particular on qualitative research methods, including case study design and comparative methods. The second half will be about quantitative methods, including sampling and basic statistical analysis, from describing and visualising patterns in numerical data to basic multiple regression analysis.

Level 2 Option Modules

DEV20130 Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Prof Patrick Paul Walsh

In this module, we examine the most topical and pressing sustainable development challenges. We do this through an examination of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We start the course by asking what the SDGs are, whether they can be achieved. We then move on to consider key areas related to the 17 different SDGs, covering the most relevant academic and policy debate. Topics include; Measuring Sustainable Development, Poverty Dynamics, Famine, Income Inequality, Health, Education, Gender, Partnership, Industrial Development, Cities, Forests, Oceans, Water and Climate Change. This course adopts a multi-disciplinary perspective that will be of interest to students in all disciplines, including Politics, Economics, History, Sociology, Law, Public Health, Medicine, Geography, Engineering, Anthropology and Agriculture. Throughout the course students are set tasks and forced to ask questions of the material they are presented. Class participation and active learning is emphasised throughout. To get a better feel for the course take some time to look at the readings which can be found on Blackboard. The course is accessible to those with little or no social science background and will be useful to a number of future career paths - not just those interested in development work. As the world becomes ever more closely integrated a good understanding of the developing world is increasingly valuable and important.

INRL20080 Irish Foreign Policy

Prof Ben Tonra

This module offers an exploration of the derivation, development and practice of Irish foreign, security and defence policies, with a particular focus on contemporary challenges. Students will gain a detailed insight into Ireland's place in the contemporary world order, the transformation of Irish national foreign, security and defence policy through its membership of the European Union and the efforts of Irish policy makers to pursue Irish interests and values within an evolving global order. This will include an analysis of Irish foreign policy strategy, policy making and economic, political and military engagement. It is intended that this module will provide a solid theoretical and empirical grounding for further advanced study, and will encourage students to compare and to evaluate critically competing understandings of Ireland in the world.

INRL20160 Introduction to European Union Politics

Dr James Cross

This course offers an overview of the politics of the European Union. It studies the way the EU works and how its policy output and powers affect the lives of European citizens. The course has the objective to give students a solid grasp of the institutions, decision-making processes and major policies of the EU.

POL20060 Law, Politics, and Human Rights

Dr Alexa Zellentin

This module examines the moral foundations of the law, politics and human rights. We also examine the normative questions relating the interaction of law, politics, and human rights. Special attention is given to the theoretical bases for granting people rights. Some of the questions the module will address are: What is it to have a moral right? How can human rights be justified? How can we deal with situations where rights clash? Should basic rights be protected by constitutions? Under what circumstances may human rights be restricted?

POL20180 Capitalism and Democracy

Dr Aidan Regan

Political economy is about the study of who gets what, when, and how. This course introduces students to the politics of wealth and income inequality in the advanced economies of the world (particularly North America and Europe). We will do this through a close reading of Thomas Piketty's 'Capital in the 21st Century'. The focus of the course is on the different ways in which governments have sought to promote economic growth and redistribute resources in favour of different political interests. The course presents key concepts and theories in the study of capitalist development, and uses these to compare institutions and policies across countries and over time. The core aim of the course is to understand the changing nature of capitalism and the politics of inequality in the 21st century. We will seek to address the following questions: why have some countries grown faster than others? why are some more unequal than others? what is the inequality $R > G$? why have some countries adapted to globalisation in such different ways? Key themes include the politics of inequality, the role of organised interests in shaping distributional outcomes, the structural influence of business power over public policy, and the consequences of the international financial crisis for the democratic state in Europe and the USA.

POL20190 Contemporary Autocracies

Dr Alexander Dukalskis

What is authoritarianism and what varieties of it exist? How do autocratic regimes stay in power? Why would people ever support a nondemocratic government? What can people who oppose authoritarianism do about it? This course will address these questions in the context of authoritarian regimes that have existed in the post-Cold War era. In the first part of this course, we will consider various theoretical perspectives on authoritarianism by studying selections from political scientists and political theorists. In the second part of the course, we will think about these theoretical questions in the contexts of four case studies of contemporary authoritarian regimes. In the third part of the course, we will ask what people do when they want to resist authoritarianism. In so doing we will address various forms of non-violent resistance and debate the potential of the Internet to pry open closed regimes. Students who successfully completed POL10150 (Contemporary Authoritarianism) in the fall semester of 2014 should NOT register for this module.

POL20220 Political Institutions & Development

Dr Krishna Vadlamannati

This course takes as its starting point the new literature on institutional economics. Institutions have proven important for economic and social development. Much discussion nevertheless revolves around which types of institutions matter, and to what extent these institutions change over time. The course covers these and other topics including: corruption; crony capitalism; causes and consequences and how to measure crony capitalism; democracy and development; and failed states, discussed recently in institutional economics.

POL20230 Political Behaviour & Psychology

Dr Eva Wegner

Do people understand what is at stake in elections? Why do some people vote and others don't? When do people engage in protest? Are individuals behaving rationally when making political decisions or are they easily influenced by others? What role do emotions and identity play in political choice? Who supports right-wing populist parties – and why? This module addresses this type of questions by introducing students to key themes of political behaviour including both rational choice as well as political psychology perspectives. Important topics in this module are the formation of political beliefs and drivers of political choice. In addition, the module will devote a number of sessions to introduce students to some methods used in the study of political behavior, such as designing and analyzing public opinion surveys as well as content analysis.

Level 2 Module for International Exchange Students

POL20240 Trump, Brexit and Global Politics

Prof Ben Tonra

*This module is for International Exchange students only. The goal of this module is to understand and/or explain the major political shifts that have taken place in both the US and UK and their wider implications (if any) for global politics. The module will interrogate arguments surrounding the success of both Donald J Trump and the Brexit campaign which revolve around class and opportunity, economic inequality, race and migration, identity politics, an urban-rural divide, anti-cosmopolitanism, populism and anti-establishment politics. The module will assess if this is part of a wider challenge to the broad liberal democratic 'order' and globalisation, or are perhaps unique to the Anglo-Saxon world. The module will then go on to assess the implications of these two particular phenomena for global politics. This will include critical analysis of the implications for multilateralism, international trade, a multi-polar world order, the pursuit of universal human rights and international security.

Level 3 Modules

INRL30020 International Justice

Dr Graham Finlay

In an increasingly connected and unequal world, it is increasingly difficult to argue that the claims of justice can be limited to the society or group we happen to find ourselves in. This course examines the main rival theories of justice and their application, first on a national and then on a global level. We will first examine certain key concepts such as justice and human rights, second the main moral and political theories of global justice and finally we will conclude with an examination of concrete policy issues related to global inequality.

INRL30050 Integration, Fragmentation and the Global System

Dr Tobias Theiler

International politics today features growing levels of trade and communication, various trans- and supranational actors, and in the partial homogenization of lifestyles and consumption patterns. Yet it has also witnessed the breakup of some multinational states, intensifying religious and ethnic conflicts, and a growth in what some depict as "civilizational clashes." This course seeks to gain a conceptual handle on these at first glance contradictory tendencies. After reviewing more established approaches in International Relations it turns to accounts of

economic "globalization," models of "international society" and regional integration, cultural and "civilizational" paradigms, and the construction and dissemination of international norms.

INRL30080 Gender in War & Peace

Dr Melanie Hoewer

This is a comprehensive, active-participatory course exploring the relations between gender, war, militarism, violence and peace from both theory and practical perspectives. First, the course will introduce a critical framework for exploring international relations and examine various topics that illustrate the connection of gender, war/conflict and peace. Second, it will explore the connection between gender, war/conflict and peace in different conflict regions in a comparative fashion.

INRL30130 International Political Economy

Dr Krishna Vadlamannati

The field of International Political Economy is broadly concerned with the interrelationship between political and economic processes in international relations. The course introduces this subfield of political science, analyzing the politics of trade, foreign investments, development, international finance, and natural resource management. In the first three segments, the course will discuss what globalization is; various dimensions of globalization namely, FDI and foreign trade; the measurement of globalization, and then turns to its consequences especially for socio-economic development. It will also discuss the theories associated with FDI and Foreign Trade (why countries trade and why firms invest abroad), the costs and benefits of FDI and foreign trade and analyzing the politics of trade (including the 'Trump phenomena', Dalai Lama effect' and 'China effect'). In the fourth segment, the course dwells deep into understanding the causes and socio-economic and political impact of International Monetary Fund (IMF) lending programs (on re-election of debtor governments; likelihood and outcome of currency crises; scope of IMF conditionality; does conditions work; loans for votes in the Security Council). This segment also examines the economic growth effects of debt relief and the problems associated with them. In the final segment, the course turns to 'resource curse' thesis and the debate on whether natural resource dependence impedes economic prosperity. The course also dwells into the discussion on how some resource dependent countries (like Norway, Canada, Australia, among others) have managed to stave off the resource curse.

INRL30190 Middle East Politics

Dr Vincent Durac

The politics of the Middle East have rarely played as significant a role in international affairs as they do today. This module introduces students to the emergence of the modern Middle East and key concepts, theories and themes in the political life of the region. The first part of the module addresses broad historical background, including the emergence and consolidation of the modern state-system in the Middle East. The second part of the module examines a number of contemporary issues including political economy, gender and the public sphere, political Islam and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The module concludes with an engagement with the impact of external actors on the Middle East and the implications of recent changes in the politics of the region.

INRL30300 The EU in the World

Prof Ben Tonra

The purpose of this module is to acquaint students with the scope and scale of the European Union's international engagement. It offers a survey of the EU's capacity as an international actor across several thematic spheres: economic, political and security as well as with key global regions/actors. It identifies the basis for the EU's engagement as a global actor and interrogates its effectiveness and coherence as well its underlying legitimacy. It will critically review the multilateral institutional frameworks within which it operates and the relationship between the Union and its member states in the field of foreign, security and defence policy.

POL30350 Politics and Policy of the EU

Dr James Cross

In a referendum held on the 23rd June 2016, the United Kingdom became the first country in history to announce an intention to withdraw from the European Union. As an international organisation that has been developing for over fifty years, this new political landscape means that detailed knowledge of how the EU works, its powers, its successes and its failings, is more

important than ever. This course aims to equip students with a core understanding of the EU. It surveys the development of European policy making and introduces students to the EU's political system and the day-to-day politics of EU policy making. We will discuss theories of European policy making and examine major challenges that the EU faces at the beginning of the 21st century. The course is research lead, in that it focuses upon the political science literature that seeks to explain various aspects of European politics and policy making. This is reflected in the extensive reading list provided with the course. The course is aimed at those wanting a full and detailed introduction to (1) the political institutions of the EU, (2) its policy-making processes, and (3) current and future challenges facing the EU as a political system. The course does not assume any prior knowledge of the EU or EU politics.

POL30370 Justice in Education

Dr Alexa Zellentin

This course examines a number of questions regarding education and schooling from a normative perspective. We will look at the relevant criteria for evaluating the moral rights and duties of children, parents and states with regard to education. Students will be introduced to some of the most important concepts in political theory such as justice, equality, liberty, autonomy and community. We will discuss the different aims of education as well as which agents have which responsibilities with regard to enabling children to acquire the capacities for full membership in society. We will consider which understandings of freedom and equality should inform our thinking about multicultural education and/or demands for equal opportunities for the socially disadvantaged and discuss whether and in how far state schools ought to be neutral with regard to religious and/or cultural norms relating to conceptions of the good life.

POL30380 Introduction to Asian Politics

Dr Alexander Dukalskis

Some observers look to the 21st Century as a potential "Asian Century" in which the center of gravity of world political and economic power will shift from West to East. After taking this course, students will have a greater understanding of this dynamic and important region. The course will cover the recent history and politics of China, Northeast Asia, and Southeast Asia. Except in parenthetical ways, the course will not address India and its South Asian neighbors. Students will leave this course with a well-grounded overview of the political histories and domestic regimes of important states in the region, an understanding of relations between states in the region and with external powers such as the United States, and the ability to analyze contemporary issues and problems in the Asian region from a more informed perspective.

POL30430 Data Analytics for Social Sciences

Dr Johan (Jos) A. Elkind

This module provides an overview of common statistical methods applied to the social sciences, with particular focus on political science, sociology, public policy and development. It starts with a brief recap of the basic principles of statistical analysis, then discusses how to access, manipulate, and summarize data, and then moves on to a range of different methods - regression analysis, logistic regression, dimension reduction techniques, quantitative text analysis, etc. - that are commonly used in social science empirical research or in contemporary data science applications. It reviews both long established and cutting-edge techniques. All material is discussed using real world examples of data analysis, with both micro- and macro-level data, and the lab exercises form the basis for the continuous assessments. Rather than delving deeply into the mathematical properties of various techniques, this module focuses on the application and the types of problems where particular techniques can be applied.

POL30440 Political Risk & Foreign Investment

Dr Krishna Vadlamannati

This course provides an introduction and a review of the field of political risk - a field that focuses on the socio-political events, characteristics and processes that can negatively impact the multinational companies' achievement. More specifically, it involves the often conflictual interface between foreign investors and host country governments. The lectures support to several branches of scholarly literature, including the literature on international business, international political economy, civil and corporate social responsibility, and, not least, international politics. Many topics will be discussed in the course, viz., economic nationalism, the relationship between

governance and foreign investors; natural resource sector and political risk, security risk, expropriation and nationalization; regime type and political risk; and political risk analysis. Thus, the course provides a deeper understanding on various types of political risks which affect the goals of multinational companies. The course also discusses various types of instruments which help multinational companies stave off political risk.

POL30450 Political Activism in the Middle East

Dr Stephanie Dornschneider

This module introduces students to political activism in the Middle East. Many recent events, such as the Arab Spring or the rise of ISIS, have emphasized the importance of non-state actors in the Middle East. This module explores both violent and nonviolent activism since the emergence of the modern state system. First, we discuss how political activism (beyond the Arab World) has been studied by academic scholars, and how it has developed in the Middle East during the last century. Then we turn to particular cases that include actors such as religious movements (e.g. Muslim Brotherhood), trade unions and syndicates (e.g. the UGTT in Tunisia), human rights groups (e.g. the Nadeem Center in Egypt or the AMDH in Morocco), opposition parties (e.g. the New Wafd), and violent groups (e.g. al-Qaida and ISIS). This is an interactive module: students will participate in group assignments, including debates, a mini conference, and simulated negotiations related to a current conflict (e.g. the war in Syria).

POL30510 Understanding Referendums in Irish and Comparative Contexts

Mr Luke Field

The use of referendums is on the rise, both in Ireland and across the world. In recent years, the referendum method has been used to make decisions on everything from fiscal policy (the fiscal compact treaty referendum, Ireland 2012) to “moral issues” (the marriage referendum, Ireland 2015) to foreign policy (the Brexit referendum, UK 2016). This module offers an examination of this increasingly important political phenomenon and its consequences for the discipline of political science. Questions include: Where do referendums emerge from? How do they differ from country to country? What makes voter behaviour in referendums unique or different from other electoral contests? How do referendums fit into the policy-making process? How does the referendum process interact with other forms of democratic expression, such as representative democracy and deliberative democracy? Assessment takes the form of a 2,500-word essay, with 20% allocated to a first-draft and formative assessment, and 40% to the final submission; a blog post, with 10% allocated to a first draft and formative assessment, and 20% to the final submission; and attendance and in-class participation (10%).

POL30520 Environmental Politics and Policy

Ms Sadhbh O'Neill

Over the last decade, environmental problems, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, or depletion of natural resources have gained more and more attention from policymakers, academics, and citizens alike. Common to all these problems is that they require shifts in values, policies, and different approaches to economic and public policy. The module attempts to identify answers to these questions: How do we resolve environmental disputes at a national or sub-national level? Why do some countries perform better from an environmental perspective? What kind of global environmental regimes are effective, and why? Can we change the fossil fuel basis of modern economies, and still provide jobs and public services? Is the ‘green state’ a feasible political idea? In this course, students will study the patterns of environmental policy-making from an inter-disciplinary perspective incorporating comparative methods, environmental policy as resource management, environmental ethics, and the emerging field of green political economy in the context of Problem-Based Learning (PBL). All these topics are rooted in the most recent literature and, where applicable, linked to current policy debates in Ireland. The course will conclude with a theoretical inquiry into the characteristics and nature of the ‘green state’: under what conditions is development compatible with environmental protection? Are there any examples of green states to study? What can other states learn from them?

POL30530 The Politics of Representation

Dr Caroline McEvoy

Does it matter whom you vote for? Are politicians all the same – working only towards the protection of their own interests and not those of their constituents? Are the public truly disconnected from what goes on in Washington, Brussels and Dublin? Representation is a cornerstone of modern democracy and yet how (and how effectively) the ‘will of the people’ becomes public policy is anything but straightforward. This module attempts to untangle some of the complexity surrounding political representation. Students will be introduced to concepts such as substantive, descriptive and gyroscopic representation, the responsible party model, the difference between delegates and trustees, political responsiveness and the democratic dilemma. Using a combination of theoretical and empirical literature, the module addresses questions such as: What does it mean to be represented? What does ‘good’ representation look like? Do citizens have influence over policy outcomes? Whose interests do politicians serve? Are elections good instruments of representation and how do institutions affect the party-voter link? Can women’s interests only be fully articulated by other women? How does the international context affect the representative process?

POL30540 Parties in Parliament

Dr Cristina Bucur

Political parties play crucial roles in the theory and practice of parliamentary government in modern Europe. Yet, the increasingly dominant role of parties in parliament has been criticised for bringing about the so-called decline of parliaments. Starting from a critical re-examination of this thesis, we review the model of parliamentary government and executive-legislative relations, taking into account the varied range of formal and informal intra-party and intra-parliamentary channels of legislative control and oversight. Then we move on to examine the following themes: how candidate selection procedures, and the intra-party actors who control them, influence how parliamentarians act once elected; how the links between MPs and their constituencies impact parliamentary effectiveness and policy-making; the organisation and behaviour of legislative parties and individual members – including the transnational party groups in the European Parliament – and their relations with extra-parliamentary parties; how parties can use the legislative process to play a significant role in scrutinising and shaping government legislation and manage policy-making in multiparty governments; how parties structure legislative debates and access to the parliamentary floor to control the message their members convey across European parliaments.

POL30490 Advanced Seminar in Politics 1⁴

Various Lecturers

This module is a 5 credit module that gives advanced undergraduate students the background, training and supervision needed to engage in a substantial piece of research. A number of members of staff of the School of Politics and International Relations will provide foundational background and methodology lectures in their various fields of expertise. Students will then produce a research proposal outlining a topic for which supervision is available and including an extensive literature review. The assignment will be developed under individual supervision. Participation in this module involves a large amount of independent work, and the self-discipline and initiative required to do substantial research. This module must be taken in conjunction with POL30500.

POL30500 Advanced Seminar in Politics 2

Various Lecturers

This module is a 5 credit module that gives advanced undergraduate students the background, training and supervision needed to engage in a substantial piece of research. Under individual supervision, students will submit a 7,000 word thesis. Participation in this module involves a large amount of independent work, and the self-discipline and initiative required to do substantial research. Some workshops will assist in the development of the thesis, but the focus will be on independent work. This module must be taken in conjunction with POL30490.

⁴ Students who wish to register for the Advanced Seminar modules must apply in advance.
<https://www.ucd.ie/spire/study/currentundergraduatetestudents/stagetwoandthree/>