

Academic Year: 2017-18

Module Title :	SS2767 – Irish Social Policy 1 (10 ECTS)
	<p>This module, which will run in both Michaelmas and Hilary term, comprises two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Analysis & Argument Development Michaelmas Term• Housing Policy – Hilary Term
Module Content:	<p>Critical Analysis and Argument Development (5 ECTS)</p> <p>This section of the module aims to develop students’ core social policy skills, including critical analysis, argument development and the use of an evidence-informed approach. The module introduces students to key social policy issues including the changing context of work and employment, social security, the gender pay gap and the social determinants of health. Students are challenged to practice and develop the skills they have learnt by engaging critically with these topics. Students are supported to critically appraise how explanations of and solutions to social issues may be influenced by analysis of evidence and competing perspectives</p>
Learning Outcomes:	<p>On completion of this section of the module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recall definitions of key concepts including critical analysis, academic argument and theoretical framework.▪ Identify competing perspectives on social policy issues▪ Critically evaluate competing explanations using an evidence-informed approach▪ Develop balanced arguments on social policy issues▪ Recall knowledge on key social policy debates including, the changing context of work, social security, the gender pay gap and the social determinants of health.
Key Readings	<p>** Cottrell, S. (2011). <i>Critical thinking skills: Developing effective analysis and argument</i>. Basingstoke Palgrave Macmillan. (Available as an e-book).</p> <p>** This is the key reading for this module.</p> <p>Greetham, B. (2013). <i>How to write better essays</i>. London: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>European Commission (2009). Gender segregation in the labour market: Root causes, implications and policy responses in the EU. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&furtherPubs=yes&langId=en&pubId=364</p> <p>Standing, G. (2011) <i>The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class</i>. London: Bloomsbury.</p> <p>Wilkinson. R. & Pickett, K. (2010) <i>The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone</i>. London: Penguin.</p>

Assessment 1:	1500 word essay worth 50% of module
Assessment 2:	Essay = 50% of overall grade