

Academic Year 2017-2018

<p><b>Module Title :</b></p>	<p><b>SS3401 – Families, Youth and Society: Contemporary Issues (10ECTs)</b></p>
<p><b>Component One</b></p>	<p><b>Gender, Reproductive Health and Policy (5 ECTS)</b></p>
<p><b>Module Aims</b></p>	<p>Human reproduction has long served as the vehicle for larger cultural debates on freedom, power, privilege, and choice. The ways in which reproductive experiences have been revered or shamed, encouraged or hindered, rewarded or punished reveal deeper societal anxieties about human life and human worth – about the kinds of lives that are considered socially valuable and worthy (or not) of being re-produced.</p> <p>Using a critical feminist approach, we will examine key concepts including kinship, gender, sexuality, social structure, class, religion, identity as they apply to reproduction -in cross-cultural contexts. We will consider how these constructs shape reproductive health policy. The course will draw from the field of anthropology in particular to explore the construction of gender in science and biomedicine, the social impact of and meanings associated with reproductive technologies, the medicalisation of birth and the reproductive body, and the gendered ways in which reproductive health and public policy are intertwined.</p>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b></p>	<p>The main outcomes of this module are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide insight into the shaping and making of reproductive health and reproductive policies in a cross cultural context</li> <li>• Enhance critical thinking skills and engagement with critical feminist theory and practice in the study of human reproduction and reproductive technologies</li> <li>• Demonstrate the ways in which the perspective of cultural relativism affects ethical discussions and decisions about reproductive health in policy contexts</li> <li>• Encourage students to become informed citizens in their lives and choices</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Reading/s</b></p>	<p>There will be no single text book for the course. Instead, assigned articles and chapters of books will be assigned throughout the course. You will be able to access and print out this material online via Blackboard as well as through library reserves. You will also be expected to read and discuss current news articles and other online material on women and gender in cross-cultural perspective that will be distributed electronically during the semester.</p>

<p><b>Section Two Module Content</b></p>	<p><b>Youth and Society (5 ECTS)</b></p> <p>This section of the module is inter-disciplinary and will draw upon research linked to Youth Studies, Sociology, Criminology, Psychology and Social Policy. The core aim is to provide students with an in-depth, research-based understanding of youth, adolescence, and emerging adulthood. The course will focus on key theoretical approaches to understanding youth in society and will consider a range of substantive issues and areas within contemporary research on both ‘mainstream’ and ‘marginalised’ youth, but with a strong emphasis on youth ‘at risk’, including homeless youth, young people with care experience, and young people who use drugs. Varying approaches to the study of youth will be examined/reviewed and we will explore how social and economic forces influence the lives and experiences of young people generally and marginalised youth in particular.</p> <p>The aim of this section of the module is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable students to identify the theoretical constructs that have been used to conceptualise and understand ‘youth’ across time</li> <li>• To critically analyse the impact of social context, social diversity and inequality on the lives and experiences of young people</li> <li>• To highlight challenges faced by young people due to structural inequalities within contemporary society, particularly during the transition from ‘child’ to ‘adult’, with specific attention to the situations and experiences of homeless youth, young drug users and young people in and leaving the care system</li> <li>• To consider how governments and Irish social policy in particular, have conceptualised and responded to the lived experience and needs of both mainstream and marginalised young people</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b></p>	<p>On completion of section students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have knowledge and understanding of the ways in which ‘youth’ and ‘adolescence’ have been conceptualised over time.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to identify key concepts and themes that are relevant to understanding the multiple and diverse aspects of youth and youth experience.</li> <li>• Have the knowledge to critically assess popular discourses and dominant debates on young people.</li> <li>• Understand how social inequalities impact the life experiences and life chances of young people in general and marginalised youth, in particular.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Reading/s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furlong, A. (2013) <i>Youth Studies: An Introduction</i>. Abingdon: Routledge. Shelfmark: PL-571-883</li> <li>• France, A. (2007) <i>Understanding Youth in Late Modernity</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave Shelfmark: 301.43 P793</li> <li>• Cieslik, M. &amp; Simpson, D. (2013) <i>Key Concepts in Youth Studies</i>. London: Sage Shelfmark: HL-359-258 (Berkeley Basement); PB-251-813 (Stanry Stacks)</li> <li>• Lalor, K., deRoiste, A. &amp; Devlin, M. (2007) <i>Young People in Contemporary Ireland</i>. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan. Shelfmark: LEN 301.43P72</li> </ul>
<b>Lecturer / Timetable</b>	<p>Dr. Ayesah Émon One 2 hour lecture per week Monday 11am-1pm Venue Room 1.04 College Green</p> <p>Dr Paula Mayock Two 1 hour lectures per week</p>
<b>Assessment 1: (Michaelmas Term)</b>	<p>Coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class presentations (TBA in class)</li> <li>• Final Essay: Policy Brief (due via Blackboard Monday, Dec 18)</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment 2: (Hilary Term)</b>	<p>One 3,000 word essay = 50%</p>
<b>Penalty for late submission</b>	<p><b>A penalty of 10% will be applied to students who submit essays late without an authorised extension.</b></p>