

POU33021 — Irish Politics A

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>POU33021</i>
Module Title	<i>Irish Politics A</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Junior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Dr Lisa Keenan</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026–27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 1</i>
Contact Hours	Two 1-hour lectures per week; one 1-hour tutorial per fortnight

Module Content	
Module Description	The module covers political culture, the constitution, elections and electoral behaviour, parties and the party system, the electoral system and its political consequences, and the role of parliament. Visiting students This module is OPEN to one-term and full-year visiting students. However, visiting students should bear in mind that this module is not designed as a beginners’ guide to Irish Politics or as the equivalent of a summer school course, and that those with little or no prior knowledge of the subject will need to do some initial catching up on the basics. Reading chapter 1 of the module textbook (Politics in the Republic of Ireland, see below) in advance of term or early in the term is recommended for those with little background knowledge of Irish history. A useful and fairly introductory overview of the country is Eoin O’Malley, Contemporary Ireland (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). Incoming Socrates/Erasmus/visiting students are required to fulfil the same module requirements, in terms of coursework and exams, as TCD students. Registering for the module implies acceptance of this.

Module Content	
Module Learning Aims	The aim of this module is to deepen students' understanding not only of the substance of Irish politics but also of the academic research that aims to interpret and understand it.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students will: • Describe and assess the key features of the Irish political and electoral systems; • Identify interesting research questions in Irish politics; • Evaluate the usefulness of various theoretical approaches when applied to this context; • Explain the causes of some of the important shifts that have been observed within the Irish context.
Indicative Reading / Resources	The course textbook is: • Coakley, J., & Gallagher, M., O'Malley, E. & Reidy, T. (Eds.). (2024). Politics in the Republic of Ireland. Routledge. Some recommended introductory readings are below: • Cronin, M. & O'Callaghan, L. (2015). A History of Ireland. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. • Gibney, J. (2017). A Short History of Ireland, 1500–2000. Yale University Press. • Paseta, S. (2003). Modern Ireland: a very short introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press. • O'Malley, E. (2011). Contemporary Ireland. Macmillan International Higher Education.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	• Continuous assessment: 40% • 90-minute in-person examination: 60%
Assessment Details	In the event that a student must sit the supplemental exam (as a first attempt or as a repeat), this will take place during the assessment session in August (see the Academic Year Structure 2026/27). The supplemental exam is the same format as the end-of-semester exam. It is not possible to request an alternative exam format (i.e., a move to online). It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they are present in person at scheduled examination sessions.