

SOC41180— Environmental Crises, Inequality and Sustainable Futures

Module Information	
Module Code	SOC41180
Module Title	Environmental Crises, Inequality and Sustainable Futures
Department	Sociology (UCD)
Year Group	Postgraduate
Module Personnel	Dr Egle Gusciute
Academic Year	2026 - 27
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	2 hour lecture/seminar per week

Module Content	
Module Description	Environmental crises - from climate change and toxic pollution to land conflict and biodiversity loss - are among the most pressing challenges facing contemporary societies. This module examines these crises from a sociological perspective, focussing on the interactions between human societies and the natural environment and on the inequalities that shape who causes, experiences, and responds to environmental harm. Throughout the module, students will engage with key theoretical frameworks within environmental sociology - including risk society, ecological modernisation theory, slow violence, ecofeminism, and degrowth - examining topics such as environmental inequality and racism, slow violence and green crime, climate-induced migration, indigenous rights and decolonial perspectives, consumption and waste, food systems, social movements, energy transitions, and green urbanism. The module will focus on case studies from both the Global North and Global South and will examine pathways to more just and sustainable futures, including just transition, degrowth, and non-Western alternatives such as Buen Vivir. By the end of the module, students will have the theoretical tools to critically analyse environmental crises, understand the structural inequalities that drive them, and evaluate proposed solutions from comparative and global perspectives

Module Content	
Module Learning Aims	The broad aims of the module (optional)
Learning Outcomes	Students successfully completing the module will: 1) Acquire an understanding of social dimensions of climate change and engage with key concepts, debates, and issues; 2) Display competence in interpreting and analysing theoretical, methodological and empirical work on social dimensions of climate change from an interdisciplinary perspective; 3) Reflect and critically analyse social dimensions of climate change; 4) Identify key issues and consider possible solutions from a comparative and global perspectives.
Indicative Reading / Resources	

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Presentation (40%), In-person essay (60%)
Assessment Details	

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	