Trinity College Dublin
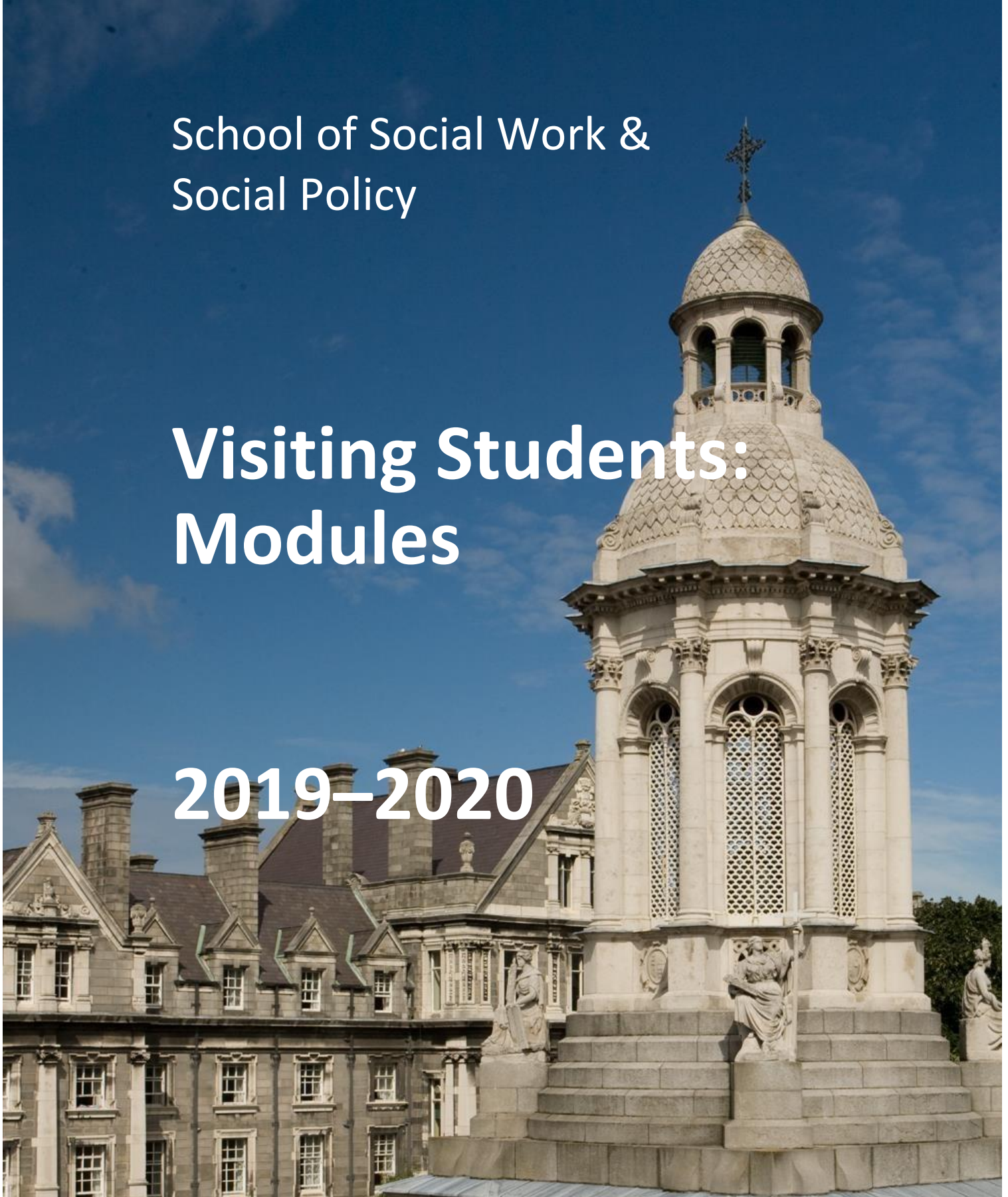Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

School of Social Work &
Social Policy

Visiting Students: Modules

2019–2020

Erin Paullin (paulline@tcd.ie) Global Officer, School of Social Work & Social Policy

(Wednesday-Thursday)

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MODULE INFORMATION

SSU11010   Introduction to Psychology

Lecturer: TBA

Duration: 1 year (Michaelmas/Hilary)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 10 ECTS

Description: *"It may be argued that of all the social science modules available to social workers, psychology is especially important because it offers potential explanations of complex aspects of human behaviour and development" (Ingleby, 2010, p. ix).* Psychology examines how humans think, feel, and behave. The course aims to give you insight to psychological theories and research, and how we can use psychology to understand people and their behaviour.

This 44-hour module comprises of one (two-hour) lecture each week, across Michaelmas and Hilary terms. In Michaelmas Term, the module will provide a broad introduction to the major areas of study within psychology. Throughout Hilary Term, special attention will be paid to psychological approaches to understanding social processes, such as group interaction and prejudice.

SSU11020   Introduction to Social Policy

Lecturer: Dr. Ayeshah Emon and Dr. Catherine Conlon

Duration: 1 year (Michaelmas/Hilary)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 10 ECTS

Description: The *Introduction to Key Concepts in Social Policy* in the Michaelmas Term is a foundational course introducing students to the field of social policy, its origins, historical trajectory, connection with and presence in key aspects of our daily lives, as well as the way socio-political ideologies inform our values, beliefs and decisions about social life and social justice. Through an analysis of major theories and empirical developments in welfare state and social policy, we will address relevant contemporary issues such as aging societies, globalisation, immigration, citizenship, healthcare, social justice, individual vs. state responsibility and so on. While the course focuses on Irish models of social policy, comparative international perspectives will also be discussed. This module will equip students for deeper exploration of specific policy issues and debates as they progress.
Introduction to Key Issues in Social Policy in the Hilary term looks at social policy *in action*. It considers how social policy is devised and implemented, asking how do issues come onto the agenda? Who are key policy actors? How do principles and ideologies encountered in the first semester feature in policy responses? What are the key national and supra-national institutions framing policy, and how is policy reviewed and evaluated? Students gain an insight into models for analysing the policy making process. They are introduced to a range of current social policy issues and instruments in place within the Irish, EU or international context addressing these issues to which they can apply this analytical model.
This module will equip students for deeper exploration of specific policy issues and debates as they progress in their study of social policy

SSU22091   Introduction to Irish Family Law

Lecturer: Prof. Sonya Bruen

Duration: 1 term (Michaelmas)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Description: The module explores key aspects of Irish and International Child and Family Law with particular focus on Public Child Care Law and the statutory role of Social Work Practitioners. The module will also provide an overview of relevant aspects of Private Family Law, including marriage breakdown, domestic violence, custody and guardianship social policy making. The module will equip students for deeper exploration of specific policy issues and debates as they progress in their study of social policy.

SSU22022   Housing Policy

Lecturer: Dr Louise Caffrey and Mr Simon Brooke

Duration: 1 term (Hilary)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Description: This section of the module will provide a comprehensive introduction to housing and homelessness policy in Ireland.

Module content will include the addressing following:

- What is housing policy?
- Why do governments intervene in the housing market?
- What is housing tenure, what are the differences between different tenures, and why does it matter?
- What theoretical approaches are there to housing policy?
- Why did house prices rise so quickly, only to fall again?
- Has the Local Property Tax been a success or a failure?
- What can be done about mortgage arrears?
- What is Nama?
- What is the housing experience of minority ethnic households in Ireland?
- Have government housing policy objectives been achieved?
- What theoretical explanations are there for the nature and extent of homelessness?
- How have homeless services changed during the last 20 years?
- What are the key current homelessness policy issues?

SSU22031   Crime and Irish Society (partially online)

Lecturer: Ms Courtney Marsh and Dr. Philip Curry

Duration: 1 term (Michaelmas)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Description: This module critically examines crime and punishment in Ireland under the lens of social policy. It gives a historical overview of the approaches of the state to criminal justice, and explores trends and policies in crime and punishment in Ireland. There is an emphasis on international examples to provide a comparative context and broaden the applicability of Irish social policy to a wider arena. Module topics include: defining crime, theoretical approaches to crime and criminality, the impact of media on public perceptions of crime, measuring crime, crime trends, punishing crime with and without the use of prison, coercive confinement, youth justice, and drug legislation and approaches.

SSU22042   **European Refugee Policy**

Lecturer: Ms Courtney Marsh and Dr. Philip Curry

Duration: 1 term (Hilary)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Description: The number of people worldwide who have been forcibly displaced from their home as a result of conflict, systemic discrimination, persecution, and other human rights violations has been steadily growing over the last decade to reach an unprecedented 65.6 million in 2016. The protection of stateless people, the internally displaced, asylum seekers and refugees has correspondingly become an urgent global policy issue. This course examines the legal basis of modern asylum and refugee systems, how these systems operate in practice and how the protection of people who have been forcibly displaced has come to be intertwined with the politics and policies of migration more generally.

SSU33011   **Youth and Society**

Lecturer: Dr. Paula Mayock and Dr Julie Byrne

Duration: 1 term (Michaelmas)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Description: 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 reviewed and we will explore how social and economic forces influence the lives and experiences of young people generally and marginalised youth in particular.

The aim of this section of the module is

• To enable students to identify the theoretical constructs that have been used to conceptualise and understand 'youth' across time.

• To critically analyse the impact of social context, social diversity and inequality on the lives and experiences of young people.

• To highlight challenges faced by young people due to structural inequalities within contemporary society, particularly during the transition from 'child' to 'adult'.

• 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.

SSU33032   **Human Service Organisations**

Lecturer: Dr. Paula Mayock and Dr Julie Byrne

Duration: 1 term (Hilary)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Description: Human services organisations are devoted to the promotion of human wellbeing and aim to help clients and service users function and flourish. Social policy is often implemented in human service organisations, such as schools and hospitals. Such organisations also provide the context within which professionals, such as social workers, practice.

Human service organisations are complex entities with features that set them apart from other organisations. In Ireland they operate in a dynamic and demanding environment and are under pressure to achieve effectiveness and efficiency against a backdrop of budget cuts, expanding population need, neo-liberal ideologies and the legacy of scandals which have shaken public trust.

The aim of this module is to provide students with an introduction to the nature, purpose, context and importance of human service organisations. Students will consider some of the key challenges for those leading such organisations. Students will be asked to relate the module content to human service organisation contexts in which they are, or have been, a stakeholder.

SSU33041   Life Course and Evolving Welfare States

Lecturer: Prof. Virpi Timonen

Duration: 1 term (Michaelmas)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 10 ECTS

Description: During this module, students will have an opportunity to reflect on the notion of the life course: how the timing of our birth and the context we grow up and develop in influences our opportunities and outcomes in realms such as education and work. The students will be sensitised to how the life course is changing as a result of transformations in what are considered major milestones for individuals. For instance, the time spent in education is increasing, and entry into employment and parenthood are being postponed; ultimately, the exit from labour force is also set to be postponed, leading to a situation where working lives commence later but continue for longer.

The module will connect these changes in the life course to welfare state structures, which are lagging behind the pace of change in the life course, but are also trying to catch up with and adapt to these changes. The module draws on examples from a variety of welfare states and different policy sectors, with a focus on how welfare states are trying to address the (new) social risks of childhood disadvantage, weak educational opportunities, youth unemployment, precarious work, and the challenges of reconciling work and parenthood. The policies that the module focuses on include early childhood education and learning (or, from the working parents' perspective, child care); higher education and vocational training; labour market activation policies; income supplements and universal minimum incomes; and other policies and interventions that seek to make individuals employable and to lift them above the poverty line in labour markets that are characterised by increasing returns to cognitive and social skills, automation, robotisation, and earnings inequality. The module concludes with some reflections on the importance of life-long learning and continuing education opportunities in light of the ongoing efforts in most welfare states to postpone retirement.

SSU44020   Aging Societies

Lecturer: Prof. Virpi Timonen

Duration: 1 term (Michaelmas)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 10 ECTS

Description: The purpose of the module is to explore the sociology and social policies of ageing societies (social gerontology) and to consider relations between generations from this perspective.

The module will provide students with an opportunity to discuss a range of substantive topics that are relevant to both individual and population ageing, and to both 'young' and 'older' people.

In order to help students acquire a critical understanding of the opportunities and challenges that demographic ageing presents, the module will introduce students to issues relating to the social construction of ageing, theories of ageing, and ideas of 'active' and 'successful' ageing, and policy approaches to care in old age.

The contributions of older adults to their families and society through multiple channels such as grandparenting and volunteering are highlighted. The module also covers distributional debates and notions of solidarity, conflict and ambivalence between societal and family generations.

Among care-related questions, the module probes developments in both institutional and home care, and students are challenges to re-think approaches to care. New models to care that frame older adults as active contributors to their own health and well-being are introduced and debated. The extent to which technology

is changing care practices is discussed and students have the opportunity to reflect on dementia as a condition that poses particular challenges for policy and care practices.

SSU44030   Disability and Human Rights

Lecturer: Prof. Edurne Garcia Iriarte

Duration: 1 term (Hilary)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 10 ECTS

Description: This module focuses on disability as a human rights issue. The module explores the development and influence of the human rights based approach in developing disability policy. Specifically, this module examines the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 2006) using a critical approach. Drawing from current international research and policy in the areas of supported decision making, community living and inclusive education, students will have the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of disability and human rights-based policy from a critical and contextual standpoint.

SSU44110   Poverty, Inequality and Redistribution

Lecturer: Prof. Camille Loftus

Duration: 1 term (Hilary)

Contact p/wk: 2 lectures

Weighting: 10 ECTS

Description: The purpose of the module is to explore the conceptualisation and measurement of the concepts of poverty and inequality, and how public policy impacts upon them.

Students will examine how our understanding of these concepts has developed over time, and critically analyse the different ways in which we measure them. Students will consider how effectively different measures capture the experience of poverty and inequality.

The module examines key public policy issues in relation to poverty and inequality, considering how potentially conflicting principles can be reconciled in designing policy responses.

Students will develop a critical knowledge of income distribution processes – broadly defined – and related policy arguments. The role of employment, care and gender will be considered, along with that of tax, welfare and other social spending systems, in redistributing income, resources and life chances. Specific aspects of social security, taxation and social policy will be considered, and alternatives such as basic income will be critically reviewed.

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY

Plagiarism is interpreted by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one's own work, without acknowledgement. Plagiarism is considered as academically fraudulent, and an offence against University discipline. The University considers plagiarism to be a major offence, and subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University. To ensure that you have a clear understanding of what plagiarism is, how Trinity deals with cases of plagiarism, and how to avoid it, you will find a repository of information at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism

As a student it is your responsibility to:
- (i) Visit the online resources to inform yourself about how Trinity deals with plagiarism and how you can avoid it at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism .
- (ii) Familiarize yourself with the 2017-18 Calendar entry on plagiarism, "Calendar Statement on Plagiarism for Postgraduates - Part III, 1.32" - http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar located on this website and the sanctions which are applied;
- (iii) Contact your Course Director, or your Lecturer if you are unsure about any aspect of plagiarism.

Also, you must:
- (iv) Complete the 'Ready, Steady, Write' online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism 'Ready, Steady, Write' at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write. **Completing the tutorial is compulsory for all students.**
- (v) Familiarise yourself with the declaration that you will be asked to sign when submitting course work at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/declaration;   All students **must** sign this plagiarism declaration on the cover sheet of all submitted continuous assessments.

TERM DATES

Michaelmas Term/MT (first semester): Monday 9th September to Friday 29th November 2018.

Reading Week from Monday 21st October – no lectures

Hilary Term/HT (second semester): Monday 20th January to Friday 17th April 2018.

Reading Week from Monday, 2nd March – no lectures

USEFUL TCD WEBSITES:

- Orientation for New Trinity Students - http://www.tcd.ie/orientation/

- Information for International Students - http://www.tcd.ie/orientation/add-int/

- Student Services - http://www.tcd.ie/orientation/services/

- Trinity Jargon Buster - http://www.tcd.ie/orientation/jargon/

- School of Social Work and Social Policy - https://tcd.ie/swsp