

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS Credits	Semester/Duration	% Exam	% CA	Quota	Pre-requisite	Notes
SSU11022	Poverty, Welfare and Justice	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	10	IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU22111	Underpinned by the idea of the right to a 'basic minimum', welfare states are a major feature of many societies. Ostensibly a major role of the welfare state is to ensure redistributive justice, alleviate poverty and de-commodify basic needs from reliance on the labour market. Yet poverty as a global and local phenomenon persists. Over the course of this module, and focusing on both Irish and international examples, students will explore the concepts of poverty, welfare and justice and examine how they are related. The module begins with a focus on poverty, taking in histories, definitions, international comparisons and lived experiences. From here the focus shifts to welfare states as response to poverty by focusing on historical welfare state development, comparing welfare state models and exploring how welfare recipients experience the welfare state. The final part of the module will explore the concept of justice, focusing on the concept redistributive justice in-particular while also examining the role of welfare states in promoting environmental and ecological justice. The content in this module will be sociological, philosophical and policy-based and students will have the flexibility to take up one or more of these approaches when responding to the essay prompt. Learning for this module is encouraged using a variety of methods such as small group discussion to engage students in the topics and in-class exercises using online tools such as Slido, Padlet or Mentimeter. Music and art will also be employed to help explore and unpack key sociological, philosophical and policy-based concepts. PowerPoint presentations will be uploaded to Blackboard on a weekly basis as the module progresses and readings will be identified ahead of class and uploaded where available.
SSU11061	Introduction to Social Policy Concepts	5	Semester 1	0%	100%	10	IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU11051	The Principles of Social Policy module introduces you to the dynamic Field of Social Policy and is designed to provide you with a critical knowledge and understanding of the principles that underpin social policy affecting all citizens' lives. Throughout this module, you will develop an appreciation of the influences that have shaped the development of social policy to allow you understand directions being taken by diverse governments in relation to policies targeted at social welfare and well-being. You will learn to critically examine principles at work in diverse policy contexts and identify differences in approaches to social policy to facilitate a deeper appreciation of the breadth and hybrid nature of the subject area. A key focus will be to examine the interaction of state, market, family and individuals/communities in providing for and enhancing welfare and well-being at the social level. This module equips students to recognise how ideology, politics and values influence and shape social policy and to question patterns, assumptions and normative concepts and constructs generated by social policy.
SSU11092	Critical Analysis & Argument Development	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	10		This 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 activation policy, universal basic income and the gender pay gap. 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

SSU22072	An Introduction to Research Methods for Social Policy	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	10	IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU22062	This Introduction to Research Methods for Social Policy is concerned with research methods that are commonly applied to social policy research. Policy-engaged enquiry is both linear and sometimes non-linear reflecting the complexity of the policy making process. Qualitative, quantitative, mixed-method research and systematic reviews of the international evidence are frequently employed by social policy researchers to support the development of new policy or to attempt to solve a policy problem. This module will introduce SF students to the ways in which social policy is devised and implemented, while considering how issues come onto the policy agenda and which policy actors influence the policy process. Well-established policy theories and frameworks will be introduced and applied to case studies in national and international contexts. The module will focus on what it means for research to be policy-engaged, the basic design of research for policy relevance and selecting policy-relevant questions and problems. Finally, this module will provide entry level skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods and provide case study examples demonstrating these methods in policy research.
SSU22152	Global Health Policy	5	Semester 1	90%	10%	20	Recommended for 3rd and 4th year social work and social policy majors only; IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU22162	The Global Health Policy module will introduce students to essential concepts and principles underpinning global health policy. The module explores the relationship between globalization, development, and the social and environmental determinants of health in the context of the increasing inter-connectedness of our world and health challenges and threats that are transnational. Global health policy is progressively focused on disparities within and between countries situating policy analysis in the context of equity and inclusion health approaches throughout the module. Finally, the Global Health Policy module will critically appraise the global health architecture and the range of policy actors and influencers engaged in the development of health policy at national, regional, and international levels.
SSU22161	Labour Market Activation	5	Semester 1	0%	100%	10	IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU22132	This modules looks at the policies concerning the labour market, including those dealing with unemployment, training and employability. The module focuses on active labour market policies (ALMP), the most predominant throughout EU and OECD states, and their implications for social policies and working-age individuals targeted by these policies (such as welfare conditionality). It will explain the rationale and concepts underpinning these policies, analyse their function and trajectory to date, and answer how they emerged and why they have become a dominant policy solution to deal with unemployment both at international and national levels. Attention will be given to variations across welfare and policy contexts. Students will critically engage with the empirical material and literature to identify the particularities of the Irish case and critically assess the present and future of these policies. The module will discuss the most critical current labour market challenges, framed by the transformation of work, economic and social risks and assess policy responses.
SSU33011	Youth & Society	5	Semester 1	0%	100%	10	Recommended for 3rd and 4th year social work and social policy majors only; IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU33022	This 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.

SSU33802	Global Social Policy and Comparative Welfare States	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	10	IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU33702	<p>This course will examine the issues of social policy from global as well as historical perspectives. It will also look at the welfare states, comparing welfare solutions, tools and policies across different times and places.</p> <p>Rather than trying to take a snapshot of certain “regimes”, this course will compare various systems to create a “library of solutions” from which one could “mix and match” depending on the specific social challenges and contexts.</p>
SSU34002	Ageing & Intergenerational Relations	5	Semester 1	0%	100%	10	Recommended for 3rd and 4th year social work and social policy majors only; IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU34012	<p>Evidence indicates that societies are ageing, and that older and younger people are sharing places and spaces for longer than ever before, in the workplace and society.</p> <p>This module takes a critical, social and cultural gerontological approach to understanding how ageing and older age is socially constructed, understood and experienced in everyday life. Students will engage with theories of ageing, and concepts such as intersectionality, inequality and ageism, and intergenerational relations to challenge stereotyping and to interrogate the diversity in the ‘ways’ of ageing in contemporary societies.</p> <p>How ageing is constructed in a particular place in time, and how these understandings underpin, and shape policy solutions is at the core of this module.</p> <p>Students will become conversant with theories, literature and empirical evidence to interrogate contemporary policy developments nationally and internationally in relation to ageing. Finally, students will critically engage with the current international and national policy solutions designed to promote and achieve an equitable and inclusive society for all citizens, in tackling age inequality and discrimination.</p>
SSU44031	Eco Social Policy	5	Semester 1	0%	100%	5		<p>As the environmental crisis deepens and the effects begin to emerge in the form of disruptive and destructive climate events, more nation-states have ostensibly committed to carbon net zero by 2050. Achieving this target will require a major reconstitution of economies, societies and, thus, the lived realities of peoples. This reconstitution or shift will need to occur most forcibly and rapidly in the developed economies of the global north. This module will interrogate the role of social policy in addressing the climate crisis. Focusing on a range of alternative modes of economic organization along with a series of discrete policy programmes, this module will cover degrowth, postgrowth and green growth along with universal basic income, universal basic services, participation income and a capabilities approach. Current climate policy in both global and domestic contexts will also be scrutinized.</p>
SSU44162	Disability and Human Rights: Global Perspectives	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	5	Recommended for 3rd and 4th year social work and social policy majors only	<p>This module focuses on disability as a human rights issue in a global context. The module explores various models of disability and the influences that they, in particular the human rights-based approach, have in developing disability policy. Specifically, this module examines the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 2006) from local, national and global perspectives using a critical approach. Drawing from current research conducted internationally 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.</p>

SSU44112	Crime and Justice – Theories, Responses and Contemporary Debates	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	5		<p>Crime and justice are key topics in contemporary policy debates as well as in popular culture. Questions of what constitutes criminal behaviour and how best to respond to crime and social harms have been preoccupations across many societies across time. These include considerations about how we define criminal behaviour and what strategies should be in place to prevent, intervene and respond to crime. The module begins with an exploration of some of the influential criminological theories of crime and criminality, it then proceeds to look at how responses to behaviour defined as criminal have emerged and changed over time. The module will explore the rationalities of punishment including deterrence, retribution, rehabilitation, and incapacitation, as well as the institutions and practices that have been developed to give these rationalities effect. This will include a focus on policing, prison, and wider sites of detention as well as probation and community sanctions. The module will also explore the coverage of crime and justice in contemporary culture, and how this influences public perceptions. The module will draw on contemporary criminological examples and historical case studies and will explore these issues from both an international an Irish perspective.</p>
For more information on module descriptors please click the module code								
Please note that Modules relate to the 2024/25 Academic Year and are subject to change								