

Module Level	Module Code	Module Title	ECTS Credits	Semester/Duration	% Exam	% Continuous Assessment	Pre-requisite	Description	Lecture Time	Lecture Location	Lecturer
Junior Fresh (1st Year)	SSU11022	Poverty, Welfare and Justice	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	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.	Tuesday 2-4	Arts 2041B	Joe Whelan
Junior Fresh (1st Year)	SSU11092	Critical Analysis & Argument Development	5	Semester 2	0%	100%		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	Monday 9-11	Museum Building M4	Louise Caffrey
Senior Fresh (2nd Year)	SSU22212	Qualitative Methods for Social Policy	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU22222	This Module is designed to introduce students to core Social Policy research techniques that can be applied in the context of a Capstone project. The module covers basic research skills like literature reviewing, formulating research questions, research design and research ethics. Students are introduced to a range of research methods and in the second half of the module can select one to specialise in. The module is taught through the use of practical examples and students are encouraged to apply module material to their own Capstone project proposals	Wednesday 2-4	Arts 2037	Kasia Wodniak

Junior Sophister (3rd Year)	SSU33802	Global Social Policy and Comparative Welfare States	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE SSU33702	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. 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.	Monday 2-4	Arts 3074	Nicola Carr
Senior Sophister (4th Year)	SSU44112	Crime and Justice – Theories, Responses and Contemporary Debates	5	Semester 2	0%	100%		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.	Thursday 2-4	College Green 1.04	Nicola Carr
Senior Sophister (4th Year)	SSU44162 CANCELLED	Disability and Human Rights:- Global Perspectives	5	Semester 2	0%	100%	Recommended for 3rd and 4th year social work and social policy majors only	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.	Thursday 2-4	Arts 3080	Ann Swift

For more information on module descriptors please click the module code

Please note that Modules relate to the 2025/26 Academic Year and are subject to change