

Module Title :	<b>SS3401 – Families, Youth and Society: Contemporary Issues (10 ECTS)</b>
	<p>This introductory module, which will run in both Michaelmas and Hilary term, and will be delivered by Dr Catherine Conlon and Dr Paula MayockThe module comprises two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section One - Contemporary Issues in the Family will run in Michaelmas term – Dr Catherine Conlon</li> <li>• Section Two – Youth and Society will run in Hilary term</li> </ul>
Section One Module Content	<p><b>Contemporary Issues in the Family (5 ECTS)</b></p> <p>This section will consider how ‘family’ as a norm, institution and practice has evolved in Irish society in recent decades. We will explore how the family as a social construct has been theorised and relate the changes observed in Irish family structure and life to these theories. We will assess the family as institution by examining how Irish social policy frames family and personal life. We will draw on social research portraying recent trends in family formation and the practices of family life throughout the module to critically assess the dynamics between the normative, institutional and practiced families we live by. Dr Conlon’s own research will be drawn on through a research led teaching approach.</p> <p>Aims of this module are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide students with an understanding of theoretical developments and debates in the field of the family and personal life.</li> <li>• To debate how changes in personal relationships across gender, generation and sexualities are transforming family.</li> <li>• To develop an understanding of the diversities of families we live by in contemporary Irish society.</li> <li>• To consider how Irish social policy relates to the changing formations and practices in family and personal life.</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	<p>On completion of section one students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have knowledge of changing patterns and forms of family living.</li> <li>• Understand contemporary sociological approaches to explaining modern family and personal life.</li> <li>• Be able to critically assess policy relating to the family in Ireland.</li> <li>• Be competent to critically assess contemporary social research and popular debates relating to the family and private life.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morgan, David (2013) Rethinking Family Practices, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan Shelfmark: PL-574-243</li> <li>• Ribbens McCarthy, Jane and Rosalind Edwards (2011) Key Concepts in Family Studies, Los Angeles: Sage Shelfmark 301.427 R11</li> <li>• Smart, Carol (2007) Personal Life, Polity.</li> <li>• Shelfmark: PL-458-375</li> <li>• Saraceno, Chiara, Jane Lewis and Arnlaug Leira (Eds) (2012) Families and Family Policies Vols I and II. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Shelfmark: 362.8 R21.1</li> </ul>
<b>Section Two Module Content</b>	<p><b>Youth and Society (5 ECTS)</b></p> <p>This section of 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 culture, the media, and other social forces have influenced societal understanding of young people.</p> <p>The aim of this section of the module is</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable students to identify the theoretical constructs that have been used to conceptualise and understand 'youth' across time.</li> <li>• To critically analyse the impact of social context, social diversity and inequality on the lives and experiences of young people.</li> <li>• To highlight challenges faced by young people due to structural inequalities within contemporary society, particularly during the transition from 'child' to 'adult'.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	<p>On completion of section students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have knowledge and understanding of the ways in which 'youth' and 'adolescence' have been conceptualised over time.</li> <li>• Be able to identify key concepts and themes that are relevant to understanding the multiple and diverse aspects of youth and youth experience.</li> <li>• Have the knowledge to critically assess popular discourses and dominant debates on young people.</li> <li>• Understand how social inequalities impact the life experiences and life chances of young people in general and marginalised youth, in particular.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Reading/s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furlong, A. (2013) <i>Youth Studies: An Introduction</i>. Abingdon: Routledge. Shelfmark: PL-571-883</li> <li>• France, A. (2007) <i>Understanding Youth in Late Modernity</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave Shelfmark: 301.43 P793</li> <li>• Cieslik, M. &amp; Simpson, D. (2013) <i>Key Concepts in Youth Studies</i>. London: Sage Shelfmark: HL-359-258 (Berkeley Basement); PB-251-813 (Stantray Stacks)</li> <li>• Lalor, K., deRoiste, A. &amp; Devlin, M. (2007) <i>Young People in Contemporary Ireland</i>. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan. Shelfmark: LEN 301.43P72</li> </ul>
<b>Lecturer / Timetable</b>	<p>Contemporary Issues in the Family – Dr Catherine Conlon  Youth and Society: Contemporary Issues – Dr Paula Mayock</p>

	Two 1 hour lectures per week
<b>Assessment 1:</b> <b>(Michaelmas Term)</b>  <b>Assessment 2:</b> <b>(Hilary Term)</b>	One 1,000 Word Essay = 10% One 1,000 Word Essay = 15% One 3,000 Word Essay =25%  One 3,000 word essay = 50%
<b>Penalty for late submission</b>	A penalty of 10% will be applied to students who submit essays late without an authorised extension.