

Module Title :	SS4722 Poverty, Inequality and Redistribution (15 ECTS)
Module Outline:	This module will run for two hours per week in both Michaelmas and Hilary term. The course will examine concepts of poverty and inequality, measurements of income inequality and changes in inequality over time. It will critically analyse different ways of defining and measuring poverty, paying particular attention to research findings on poverty in Ireland. The role of the tax and welfare systems, and of other social spending, in redistributing income, resources and life chances will also be examined. Alternative tax-benefit systems such as Basic Income will be critically reviewed, and specific aspects of social security, taxation, and welfare state policy will also be considered. The tension between "equality" and "efficiency" type objectives will also be outlined, along with recent policy ideas and initiatives to simultaneously pursue equity and efficiency objectives using 'quasi-markets', so-called.
Learning Outcomes	The core learning objective of the course is to impart a critical knowledge of income distribution processes (very broadly defined) and related policy arguments and research methods. Specifically, students will learn how to: • analyze and critique quantitative poverty and income distribution and social expenditure data; • critically compare the strengths and weaknesses of alternative concepts of poverty; • understand the variety of methodologies- survey, quantitative, ethnographic- in poverty research and the interplay between concepts and methodology; • integrate concepts and evidence from different social science disciplines; • formulate policy proposals and critiques that reflect the interplay between conflicting policy goals. In pursuing these learning objectives a number of learning styles will be applied, as follows: • Exposition of basic concepts and illustrative evidence through lectures;

	• Exploring and discussing key texts in student-led discussion; • Self-directed learning through choice of reading and essay topics; • One-to-one supervision and discussion of student's reading and essay supervision.
Lecturers	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dr. Anthony McCashin
Michaelmas Term Assessments: Hilary Term Assessment:	Essay 1 = (20%) Essay 2 = (30%) End of Year Examination = (50%) Penalties will be applied where assignments are not submitted on time. If you need an extension, a note from your College Tutor must be received in advance of the deadline.