



**UCC**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

*DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY*



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*INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY*  
(Module Codes: SC1005, SC1006, SC1012 and SC1013)

*Head of Department: Dr Tom Boland*

*Director Undergraduate Programme: Dr Amin Sharifi Isaloo*

*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Coordinator: Dr Joan Cronin*

*First Year Course Booklet*

*2023-2024*

## WELCOME

Welcome to your first year studying Sociology at University College Cork. Sociology is the study of society – one of the broadest and most popular subjects in Arts – and also a crucial part of the Social Science, Anthropology and Criminology programmes.

Your introductory study of sociology will consider a wide variety of questions: How is society structured and organised? How do ideas and culture shapes how we think? How are individuals formed by their background? How is social power exercised and resisted? Sociology offers not just abstract hypotheses about these questions, but focused research which expands our knowledge. Furthermore, studying sociology means critically examining our assumptions. By studying sociology, you become part of an on-going conversation about modern society, spanning theory, method and research.

There is great variety in the first year Sociology course – later on there is an overview of six distinctive courses; we hope you will enjoy all these courses this year and choose interesting courses in sociology in following years. Equally importantly, there are weekly support tutorials in Sociology, where you can meet other students and discuss the ideas put forward in the lectures.

While we have all been struggling with the challenge of on-line learning over the past few years, we intend this year to be a primarily on-campus experience. Attendance at lectures, discussions in tutorials, exchanging views with other students and even visiting the library are essential parts of your undergraduate experience. Of course, the pandemic may still have an impact – keep up-to-date with public-health guidelines and with UCC guidance at <https://www.ucc.ie/en/emt/covid19/>. In particular, this may mean staying at home if you are symptomatic or test positive. Exemptions and mitigations will be made for Coronavirus just like any other illness.

First year in college can be daunting initially; do not hesitate to get in contact with our first year team if you have any questions – and your tutor is a great source of advice. We live in times of immense challenges, from the housing crisis and cost-of-living crisis to climate change and migration, and sociology will provide perspectives upon these. Indeed, your first year can be a real time for exploration and thinking anew, getting into new perspectives, meeting new people, joining UCC clubs and societies. To make the most of it, I would advise anyone to cut down on social media and screen time, fill your bag with interesting books whether they are on the course or not, and bring a notebook and pen everywhere, not just to take notes on your lectures, but to write down your own thoughts.

We are delighted to have you: Welcome.

Dr. Tom Boland  
Head of the Department of Sociology & Criminology  
University College Cork

## **Welcome to Sociology!**

We live in times of unprecedented social change. The transformative effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, climate change, war in the Ukraine, war in Gaza/Palestine to name but a few, bring many social issues into sharper focus, including that of deepening race, class and gender inequalities, economic crisis, global inhumanities, rapid loss of biodiversity, digital divides, populism, and gun violence, to name but a few. At the same time, we witness the rise of various social movement of resistance, including Black Lives Matter, MeToo, Fridays for Climate. Is there a better time to study Sociology? Our programme offers a rich and varied choice of modules on subjects as diverse as social theory, research methods, cities, culture & art, memory, trauma and denial, migration, race & ethnicity, human rights, global justice, crime and deviance, body and culture, class, gender, sexualities, climate change, sustainable development, media, health and illness. We deliver research-based teaching that combines theory and practice in ways that encourage students to question the social world as it is and think about the world as it could be.

We offer all our students a rigorous and scholarly teaching and learning experience of award-winning standard. The safety and wellbeing of all our students and staff is a priority concern for the Department of Sociology and Criminology. We are fully committed to providing a teaching programme that complies with the Government's policy and public health guidelines.

The sections below contain further information regarding the mode of delivery for each module. If you have any queries regarding seminars, please contact our co-ordinator, Dr Joan Cronin ([joancronin@ucc.ie](mailto:joancronin@ucc.ie)). If you have any questions regarding a particular module, please contact the coordinator of that module. Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any further questions at ([amin.sharifiisaloo@ucc.ie](mailto:amin.sharifiisaloo@ucc.ie)) We very much look forward to guiding you on your learning journey.

Dr Amin Sharifi Isaloo

Director of the Undergraduate Programme in Sociology

## Welcome to Year 1

Congratulations on choosing to study Sociology at UCC. We are excited to welcome you to the 1st Year of Sociology and we look forward to working with you over the coming academic year.

On this booklet, you will find the 1st year roadmap which provides you with the information you need about the 1st year course. As it will guide you during your 1st year, please read it carefully.

The 1st year Sociology comprises 2 hour lectures and 1hour seminar every week during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. All lectures and seminars will be delivered in person and students will have a choice to sign up for one of the face-to-face seminar slots on Canvas.

Please note that Covid-19 pandemic is an ongoing & changing situation, in which protocols may eventually enable a different mode of delivery. Updates on the situation will be communicated through Canvas.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that attendance at lectures and seminars is crucial. Your lecturers and tutors will introduce you to various aspects of what can often be a complex discipline. If you do not attend your lectures and seminars and you do not read readings and materials uploaded on Canvas, you will miss an important opportunity to learn and you will be poorly prepared for the various forms of assessment that appear along the way.

Please do not hesitate to email me ([joancronin@ucc.ie](mailto:joancronin@ucc.ie)) if you have any questions. We hope you will have an enjoyable and productive first year learning with the Department of Sociology.

Dr Joan Cronin  
Coordinator of the 1st and 2nd Undergraduate Programmes  
& Tutors Coordinator in Sociology

## MISSION STATEMENT

Sociology & Criminology at UCC is at the cutting edge of teaching and research on the intersection between society, economy, ecology, politics, crime and culture. Staff pride themselves in being leaders in frontier research on sociological, criminological and anthropological theory, participatory, ethnographic and creative methodologies, political and cultural transformation, social inequalities, gender, sexuality, identity, migration, crime, violence and social justice, climate change, sustainable development, health, cities and societies of the future. Embracing the University's ethos of 'independent thinking', the department offers a unique platform to acquire theoretical and methodological skills applicable to a wide range of research areas. Placing a strong emphasis on academic freedom in the interest of community service, social justice and societal relevance, the department of Sociology & Criminology strives to maintain its distinctive profile as a centre of research and teaching excellence, enabling our students to understand our contemporary society in the light of social justice, ideals and core values, so that we may think our way through our present challenges and imaginatively reinvent ourselves.

## COVID-19 STATEMENT

Please note; The Covid-19 restrictions are subject to change. Please refer to the UCC information pages at the following link: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/emt/covid19/> .

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## INTRODUCTION

As a first-year University student, you will encounter a range of subjects known as academic ‘disciplines.’ Each discipline has its own particular origins and history and has developed its own language, theories, and set of concepts. Economists, for example, talk of "the market", psychologists of "the mind" - and sociologists of "society". Sociology shares many common interests with history, geography, philosophy, English literature, music, etc., but Sociology has its own distinctive perspectives, its own questions and its own ways of obtaining answers.

**What is Sociology?** This ‘Introduction to Sociology’ course will enable you to see how:

- (a) Sociology offers crucial insights on, and understandings of, various aspects of the contemporary world (including culture, religion, gender, class, age, the economy, globalization, the environment, migration, ethnicity, the media, etc.).
- (b) Sociology is a discipline that engages in comparative research, comparing past societies with the present, and comparing other societies with our own.
- (c) Sociology is a discipline informed by a variety of theoretical paradigms.
- (d) Sociology is a research-based discipline.
- (e) Sociology is a discipline relevant to political, cultural, economic and social policy.
- (f) Sociology is a discipline that addresses key social problems confronting societies around the world.
- (g) Sociology is a discipline relevant to many career paths, including those in social research, public administration, media, human resources, the arts and culture.
- (h) Sociology is a discipline not definable by or reducible to one particular political position or ideology – sociology is not ‘socialism’, ‘feminism’, ‘ecologism’, etc.

**Learning outcomes:** At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1. Describe the field of sociology and outline its historical development.
- 2. Identify key people and their theories in the discipline of sociology.
- 3. Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of sociological concepts by applying them to analyse contemporary social issues.
- 4. Understand sociological theories and concepts and relate them to particular problems, issues and debates.
- 5. Analyse aspects of modern society by applying sociological theories and methods.
- 6. Formulate and explain particular social phenomena in terms of general sociological theories.
- 7. Critically evaluate debates on issues in contemporary society.

### Course Structure:

The first-year sociology course is taught in two modules: SC1005 and SC1006 for Arts students; SC1012 and SC1013 for Social Science students. SC1005 (Arts) and SC1012 (Social Science) are taught in Semester 1 (five credits); SC1006 (Arts) and SC1013 (Social Science) are taught in Semester 2 (ten credits). SC1005 and SC1012 will be delivered by three lecturers in the first semester (September – December). SC1006 and SC1013 will be delivered by three lecturers in the second semester (January – April).

## ***LECTURES:***

First Arts (B.A.) SC1005/SC1006

Monday 12- 1pm, Boole\_4

Thursday 2-3pm, Boole\_4

First Social Science / Social Work (B.Soc.Sc/BSW) SC1012/SC1013

Monday 12-1pm, Boole\_1

Tuesday 3-4pm, GG\_LT

## ***SEMINARS:***

Students will need to sign up online for seminars. This can be done on Canvas. Seminar attendance will be recorded. Over the years, we have noticed a positive correlation between seminar attendance and participation, and high end of year marks. At the seminars, the tutors will discuss the material covered in class and develop writing and referencing skills. All seminars will be running from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

***STAFF AVAILABILITY:*** Please check the website of the Sociology Department or email to the related staff member. <https://www.ucc.ie/en/sociology/staff/>

## ***LECTURERS:***

### **SC1005 and SC1012**

Prof. Kieran Keohane ([k.keohane@ucc.ie](mailto:k.keohane@ucc.ie))- Sociology's Classics: An Introduction.

Dr Myles Balfe ([m.balfe@ucc.ie](mailto:m.balfe@ucc.ie))- Introduction to Medical Sociology.

Dr Tom Boland ([tom.boland@ucc.ie](mailto:tom.boland@ucc.ie))- The Media and the Public: A Sociological Perspective

### **SC1006 and SC1013**

Dr John O'Brien ([johnobrien@ucc.ie](mailto:johnobrien@ucc.ie))- An Introduction to Deviance, Crime, Punishment and Social Control

Dr Ger Mullally ([g.mullally@ucc.ie](mailto:g.mullally@ucc.ie))- Power, Governance and Social Movements

Dr Joan Cronin ([joancronin@ucc.ie](mailto:joancronin@ucc.ie)) – Sociology of Gender and Family

## ***MAIN OFFICE:***

The main office is located on the First Floor, Askive, Donovan Road.

Please contact Ms Gemma McCarthy ([gemmamccarthy@ucc.ie](mailto:gemmamccarthy@ucc.ie)) for an appointment.

## ***RESOURCE CENTRE***

The Department of Sociology has a Resource Centre that provides reading materials for all courses in Sociology.

**Opening Hours during semester:** Paula Meaney ([P.meaney@ucc.ie](mailto:P.meaney@ucc.ie)) from the Resource Centre will be available online. Email your queries and they will be responded to from Monday to Friday 9.30 to 1pm.



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

The Department has an Undergraduate Student Experience Committee which consists of elected student representatives for the different courses and years, and a number of members of staff. The committee meets twice each semester and enables students to contribute to the business of the Department. Students are urged to exercise their right to do this by direct participation on the committee or by channelling suggestions, comments and/or complaints through their representatives. The Department is proud of the fact that it was one of the first departments at UCC with such a committee, but its effectiveness depends upon the importance given to it by students.

### **TUTOR COORDINATOR**

The Coordinator of First Year teaching is Dr Joan Cronin. If you have any queries regarding the course, please contact her. Her email address is [joancronin@ucc.ie](mailto:joancronin@ucc.ie), and her office is located on the ground floor of the Safari building on Donovan Road, across from Honan Chapel.

\*Further details about the Department, its curriculum, the members of staff, research activities and publications can be found on the department's homepage. <https://www.ucc.ie/en/sociology/>

### **Timetable**

Please check the Department Timetable in the Undergrad Section of our website: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/sociology/>

### **YEAR'S WORK REQUIREMENTS**

The modules offered may contain a year's work component, i.e. work to be carried out during the year. The requirements for individual modules can be found in the outlines contained in this booklet. This work is an integral part of the module concerned, and it is also an indispensable source of feedback for the student. Please check the Book of Modules for full details.

You are strongly advised to ensure that you fulfil all module work requirements, and that you do so in accordance with the deadlines laid down. Past experience shows that students who neglect to fulfil year's work requirements either fail or get poor results.

### **Avoiding Plagiarism**

The consistent use of one specific reference system is essential throughout the project. The Department recommends the currently most widely used system, the Harvard system of referencing.

**Plagiarised work will be given a mark of 0%.**

### **Bibliography**

You are required to provide a bibliography with every written academic assignment. A bibliography is a list of all the sources you have found useful in the preparation of the assignment. Full bibliographic details of each source cited in the body of the text must be given in the bibliography. The ordering of the items and the format of your bibliography are important. It is recommended that you follow the format used by the Harvard system.

Guidelines for the use of this system are to be found on our website:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/academic/sociologydepartment/ReferencingHarvardDeptofSociologyUCCfinalSeptember2017.pdf> , on Canvas and at: <http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm>

## Deadline and Penalties

All course work must be submitted by the stated deadlines. The deadlines for each course are either set out in the course description or will be communicated in class. A standardised set of penalties will be applied to late work. These are:

1-3 days late:	a 5% deduction will be made from the assigned mark
4-7 days late:	a 10% deduction will be made from the assigned mark
8-14 days late:	a 20% deduction will be made from the assigned mark

Example: If a piece of work is given a mark of 60% by the lecturer and the work is 1-3 days late the mark recorded for examination purposes will be 57%. If the work is 4-7 days late the recorded mark will be 54% and if 8-14 days late it will be 48%.

We regret that we cannot accept work that is submitted 14 days or more after the submission deadline. In the interest of fairness, and as required by the terms of the Arts Faculty Staff-Student Handbook (1997:14), these rules will be rigorously enforced. Exceptions will be made only on production of a medical certificate relating to the period preceding the deadline.

**Return of Work:** In the Arts Faculty's Staff-Student Handbook (1997:15) "it is suggested that work normally be returned not later than two weeks after submission". The department is committed to complying with this, but it may not always be possible in every case if the number of essays received by an individual lecturer is unusually large.

## ASSESSMENT

SC1005 and SC1012 are examined by **continuous assessment** (for 5 credits) which will comprise one 2 x 1000-word written assignments (40 marks each) with attendance/participation worth 20 marks.

### SEMESTER 1

#### *Assignment One (Mark 40%)- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester*

**Topics set:** Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023  
**Submission date:** Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

For this assignment, you will be asked to write a 1000-word essay on your chosen topic. The essay question will be circulated on Canvas.

#### *Assignment Two (Mark 40%)- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester*

**Topics set:** Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 2023  
**Submission date:** Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 2023

For this second assignment, you are required to write a 1,000-word essay on a chosen topic. The essay question will be circulated on Canvas.

### SEMESTER 2

Continuous Assessment 200 Marks which will consist of:

- Essay - 3 x 1200–1500-word essays (150 Marks) - see schedule below.
- Attendance & Participation - Participation in seminars' discussions (50 Marks)

Topic set: Feb 12; Mar 11; Apr 8  
Submission due: Mar 4; Apr 1; Apr 29

Each assignment will assess students on the basis of the following competencies and skills:

- The student's ability to formulate or identify a sociological research question.
- The student's ability to carry out a library search, to identify six sources (both books and journal articles) that are relevant to the research topics chosen.
- The student's ability to compile a bibliography (listing of all references).
- The student's ability to write an essay outlining how the sources you have chosen have informed your arguments in relation to the two topics chosen for discussion.
- The student's ability to apply the guidelines provided for in-text referencing of source ideas and arguments presented below (see 'Guidelines for Referencing').

### *Late Submissions:*

All assignments should be submitted through Turnitin on the above dates. Late submissions will result in penalties (loss of marks). Please note that students who do not submit assignments run the risk of failing first-year sociology. In exceptional circumstances, an extension of up to 2 weeks may be given (e.g., presentation of a medical cert). No extension can be given beyond this two-week period. An extension will not be considered in circumstances where no evidence of illness or otherwise is provided.

### **LATE REGISTRATION**

Those who transfer into sociology after the start of the term will need to contact Dr Joan Cronin to register for seminars and catch up on missed work. All assignments will need to be completed before the end of the first term.

### **GUIDANCE ON SELF-DIRECTED STUDY**

Each module will require some individual or self-directed study. Here is some tips on how you might spend your study time:

- ***Required reading:*** Be sure to complete any required reading for the week it is assigned. If you neglect to do the reading or leave it for subsequent weeks you may have difficulty catching up or understanding the remaining module material.
- ***Further reading:*** Make use of the further reading list that many module co-ordinators and lecturers provide. Using the reading list selectively will help you not only to deepen your understanding of key issues, but will also allow you to make connections across readings and themes. This will improve your ability to write critically and analytically.
- ***Keep a learning journal.*** It is a good idea to take notes on the readings and what is covered in the module. Keep your ideas and reflections on module material in one place by starting a learning journal. Following the lecture, you should be looking over any relevant lecture notes and link these to the required reading. More importantly and in addition, you should be reading and taking notes from relevant texts cited in the reading list (or using material you have found yourself) so that you can extend your understanding of the subject.
- ***Find your own sources:*** No reading list can be exhaustive and there is always scope to use material gained from other sources. The most likely sources of relevant information, which you can locate for

yourself, are to be found in the library, books and journals as well as newspapers, scholarly blog, podcasts and online magazines.

- *Essay preparation:* Greater depth of reading will better prepare you for essays. You should spend time not only reading texts and taking notes, but also planning the structure and development of your essay so that the final product is coherent, well-argued critical and analytical, and soundly organised. The notes you've taken on module material are an important resource to draw on too.

## ACADEMIC MENTOR

You will be assigned your Tutor as your Academic Mentor. We advise that you try and meet your tutor early in the 1st semester and whenever you need to in their office hours.

Your Academic Mentor and individual module coordinators do need to know of any problems which are affecting your studies. However, UCC Student Well-being (<https://www.ucc.ie/en/students/wellbeing/>) is better placed than academic staff to offer support on physical and mental health, finances and queries

**What follows in this booklet are outlines for the modules that are being offered in 1<sup>st</sup>Year. Please note that more detailed information about individual modules will be available on the Canvas system. All students are advised to sign on for this. They are also advised to open their UCC email accounts as this is the means the department will use to communicate important information to students.**

## COURSE CONTENT & OUTLINE

### *FIRST SEMESTER (beginning Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2023)*

#### 1. Dr Kieran Keohane – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

This section of the course will introduce you to some themes and texts from the canon of classical sociology. The 'canon' refers to a number of authors, books and ideas upon which an academic discipline (in this case Sociology) is based. Authors, books and ideas comprising the canon are some of our foundations: how we think about the world now –for better and for worse- is built upon them. They are classical in the sense that these authors and their ideas have stood the test of time. They have not become outdated, redundant or irrelevant. On the contrary, the questions they raise and address are perennial and seem to us as important and urgent now as they were when they were first articulated. They are classics also in the sense that they have been influential far beyond their original audience, and have affected the course of society, politics, literature, art, popular culture and psychology outside of the ivory tower of academic discourse, so much so that we could say the classical canons of sociology are not just books *about* modern society but ideas that have played a crucial role in actually constituting modern civilization. We will explore pieces of work by Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber, locating these authors and their ideas in their own times and places, contexts and influences, and we will look at the ways in which they continue to exercise a powerful grip on our own lives and times.

#### *Course material*

Relevant Readings will be made available on Canvas and in the Resource Centre.

## 2. Dr Myles Balfe - INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY

Medical sociology is the branch of sociology that deals with medicine and health. It uses sociological ideas and concepts to look at things like:

- the social causes and patterns of disease.
- how social factors influence healthcare attendance.
- the social organization of medical care.

In this section of the course, we are going to look at an Introduction to Medical Sociology, and the Sociology of the Coronavirus.

Course outline:

1. Introduction to Medical Sociology and health inequalities.
2. The Medical Sociological Imagination.
3. Stigma
4. Medicalization

*Course material*

All headings will be available on canvas.

## 3. Dr Tom Boland– THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

This course takes a sociological perspective on the media, focusing on the idea of the ‘public’. Modern society over the centuries has slowly adopted the idea of a distinction between private and public, and from newspapers in the seventeenth century to twitter and Tik-tok in the 21st, various sorts of media have emerged. What really matters here is how society is transformed by the way we are all now connected to the public – via social media, many of us effectively live our lives in public. Why does speaking publicly change how we speak and what we say? What are the consequences of being constantly visible? How have we all become critics of power?

This course aims to pose many questions, introduce key sociological ideas, and focus in on contemporary events and controversies to demonstrate the value of a distinctly sociological perspective. It will also introduce students to methods of media analysis which will be helpful for future research.

Key Readings:

Davies, W. (2021). Anti-equivalence: Pragmatics of post-liberal dispute. *European Journal of Social Theory*, 24(1), 44–64.

Davis M (2021) The online anti-public sphere. *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 24(1): 143–159.

Habermas, J. (1974) ‘The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article’, *New German Critique*, 3, 49-55

Mill, J.S. (1963) *On Liberty and other Essays*. Oxford, OUP – excerpts on canvas.

Selected readings:

Alexander, J. C. (2016). Performance and politics: President Obama's dramatic reelection in 2012. *TDR/The Drama Review*, 60(4), 130-142.

Althusser, L. (1971) "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes towards an Investigation)" *Lenin and Philosophy and other Essays*. London, NLG

Baudrillard, J. (1983) *Simulacra and Simulations*. London, Routledge. I 'The Precession of Simulations'

Boland, T. (2019) *The Spectacle of Critique: From Philosophy to Cacophony*. Chapters 6 & 7. London, Routledge.

Fuchs, C. (2017) *Social Media: A Critical Introduction*. London: Sage Publications.

Hall, S. (1980) "Encoding/Decoding" pg 128-139 in S. Hall, D. Hobson, A. Lowe and P. Willis (eds) *Culture, Media and Society* London, Hutchinson.

Nagle, A. (2017) *Kill All Normies: From 4Chan to Donald Trump and the Alt-Right*. London: Zero books.

Stypinska, D. (2022) *Social Media, Truth and the Care of the Self: On the Digital Technologies of the Subject*. London: Palgrave. Chap 3 & 4.

Szakolczai, A. (2015) *The Theatricalisation of the Social: Problematizing the Public Sphere*. *Cultural Sociology*, 9(2), 220–239.

Thompson, J.B., 1988. Mass communication and modern culture: Contribution to a critical theory of ideology. *Sociology*, 22(3), pp.359-383.

## *SECOND SEMESTER (beginning Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024)*

### 1. Dr – John O'Brien: An Introduction to Deviance, Crime, Punishment and Social Control

#### Course Outline

Peter Berger (1963: 34) "The first wisdom of sociology is this: things are not what they seem"

The module will address questions of how society defines what is normal and abnormal, right and wrong, good and evil, lawful and illegal, and what should be done about these matters. 'Deviance' addresses normality and acceptability. Every society has such concepts, with these underpinning norms, values and laws establishing proper behaviour. But there is by no means consensus around what these are, and they are a focus of social conflict. To call a person 'deviant' seems unacceptably judgemental and authoritarian, though people also widely hold the idea that certain people are pathological and dangerous. We will examine if deviance is simply in the eye of the beholder, if there are concrete characteristics that render some people harmful, or if the application of a definition of deviance is largely a reflection of who has the power to label and define others. Crime is an offence punishable by law. But there are also many acts that are not punishable by law that are nonetheless considered to be wrong, evil, shameful and an unacceptable act of harm, which people call criminal. There are equally acts that are extremely harmful, which are not defined as criminal. We will inquire as to why certain behaviours are labelled criminal and how society responds to them. For both deviance and criminality, the question of 'wrong' from whose perspective, and who has the power to define this is central. Punishment is the imposition of a penalty for a behaviour

which is justified by the outcome it is claimed to produce. Social control, finally, addresses the need for order. Even anarchy involves informal social controls to secure a common life. At the other end of the spectrum, control can be authoritarian, depriving people of liberty in the interests of a narrow group, enforced by their agents.

The module will be broken down into an 8 lectures, with 2 per week over 4 weeks.

Week 1. This week we will examine theories of deviance and crime, which attempt to explain why people and behaviours come to be labelled deviant or criminal. It will give a summary of crime in Irish society and the main trends.

Lecture 1: Theories of Crime and Deviance

Lecture 2: Crime Trends

Week 2. In this week we will explore the link between crime and inequality. Certain deprived neighbourhoods have a high concentration of crime and deviance associated with them. We will attempt to explain why. Linked with this is how crime is linked with social position, with the majority of people who come into contact with the criminal justice system being deprived in some way. We look at the causes for this, and drug economy as an associated issue.

Lecture 3: Crime, poverty, neighbourhood

Lecture 4: Crime, inequality and social structure

Week 3. In this week we will look at violence and aggression, including sexual violence and aggression. While such offences can seem evil and inexplicable, we will explore what their underlying causes are. We will look at how gender, blocked social mobility, weak social controls, environments where people lack access to justice, weak policing, and emotional dynamics like alienation and shame, emotional intimacy deficits and privilege can help explain the occurrence of these harmful acts.

Lecture 5: Violence and aggression

Lecture 6: Sexual violence and aggression

Week 4. In our final week we will examine how punishment of rule breaking and law breaking operates. We will examine the debates around how to punish justly and effectively. Moving on from the theory, we will look at the practice of punishment in Irish society, looking in particular at prison, which is the most severe form of punishment that the state can inflict on citizens in Irish society.

Lecture 7: Punishments and their justifications

Lecture 8: The Experience of Prison

All readings will be provided on Canvas.

## 2. Dr Ger Mullally - POWER GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

This section of the course examines the changing dynamics of power in contemporary society. Power is pervasive throughout many types of social relationships, but it is an abstract idea that is explained in various ways by different sociologists. The classic explanation of power can be linked to ideas of authority and legitimacy and is based on the work of Max Weber. The central focus here is the power of the nation-

state, directed by government and supported by a modern rational bureaucracy. Under contemporary social conditions, however, forces like globalization alter the role of the nation-state and the distribution of power in society.

The course examines alternative sociological theories of power and authority with a specific emphasis on the relationship between the state and civil society. It considers the emergent mechanisms that are changing the governance of Irish society. The course highlights both the structural and relational nature of power in society and examines the role of social movements in changing contemporary society.

#### *Recommended Reading*

- Macionis, John J and Plummer, Ken (2008), Chapter 16: 'Power, Governance and Social Movements', Sociology (4th Edition), Essex: Pearson Education Limited, pp. 502-539.
- Daly, Siobhan (2007), 'Mapping Civil Society in Ireland' in the Republic of Ireland', Community Development Journal, 1-20.
- Hughes, Ian., Clancy, Paula., Harris, Clodagh and Beetham, David (2007), Chapter 11: Is there full citizen participation in public life? Power to the People? Assessing Democracy in Ireland, Dublin: TASC at New Island, pp. 439-470.
- Tovey, Hilary and Share, Perry (2000), Chapter 4: 'The Modernising State', A Sociology of Ireland', Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, pp. 73-92.

*Supplementary Reading will be recommended in class.*

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### **3. Dr Joan Cronin – INTRODUCTION: SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER AND FAMILY**

Focusing on Gender Roles within Families, the Changing Nature of Family Life and Societal Responses to 'The Contemporary Family'.

It uses sociological ideas and concepts to look at things like:

- Traditional gender roles – influence of church and state
- Factors that influence changing family structures – education, secularization, employment, resources
- Voluntary Childlessness in a society that is reluctant to change – stigma

Course outline:

The course offers a general introduction to contemporary sociological concepts and theories on gender and families, providing a better understanding of family life and gender relations in contemporary society.

Course material:

*Supplementary reading will be recommended in class and on canvas.*



**LECTURES SCHEDULE**  
**(2023 – 2024)**

**BA1: SC1005- Semester 1 (beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023):**

Prof Kieran Keohane	Monday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> Week 1-4
Dr Myles Balfe	Monday, October 16 <sup>th</sup> Week 5-8
Dr Tom Boland	Monday, November 13 <sup>th</sup> Week 9-12

**SC1005 Lectures and Seminars Timetable**

SC1005/L	Lecture	7-17	Monday	12:00	13:00	C_BOOLE_4
SC1005/L	Lecture	7-17	Thursday	14:00	15:00	C_BOOLE_4
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Monday	09:00	10:00	C_BOOLE_6
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Monday	11:00	12:00	C_CONN_J1
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Monday	13:00	14:00	C_CONN_S3
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Tuesday	14:00	15:00	C_CONN_S3A
SC/1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Wednesday	13.00	14.00	C_BOOLE_6
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Wednesday	14:00	15:00	C_CONN_S2
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Thursday	13:00	14:00	C_WGB_106
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Thursday	15:00	16:00	C_CONN_B
SC1005/S	Seminar	7-17	Friday	11:00	12:00	C_BOOLE_6
SC1005/S A	Seminar	7-17	Wednesday	09:00	10:00	C_ASK_G01*

**B.SocSc1. / BSW1 SC1012- Semester 1 (beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023):**

Dr Tom Boland	Monday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> Week 1-4
Prof Kieran Keohane	Monday, October 16 <sup>th</sup> Week 5-8
Dr Myles Balfe	Monday, November 13 <sup>th</sup> Week 9-12

**SC1012 Lectures and Seminars Timetable**

SC1012/L	Lecture	7-17	Monday	12:00	13:00	C_BOOLE_1
SC1012/L	Lecture	7-17	Tuesday	15:00	16:00	C_GG_LT
SC1012/S	Seminar	7-17	Wednesday	11:00	12:00	C_KANE_G07*
SC1012/S	Seminar	7-17	Wednesday	16:00	17:00	C_BOOLE_6
SC1012/S	Seminar	7-17	Thursday	13:00	14:00	C_CONN_S3
SC1012/S	Seminar	7-17	Thursday	16:00	17:00	C_BOOLE_6
SC1012/S	Seminar	7-17	Friday	10:00	11:00	C_BOOLE_5

**2<sup>nd</sup> semester (beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024)**

**SC1006 (BA 1)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> semester (beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024):**

<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Time</b>
Dr John O'Brien	Monday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>
Dr Ger Mullaly	Monday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>
Dr Joan Cronin	Monday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>

**SC1006 Lectures and Seminars Timetable**

SC1006/L	Lecture	24-33, 36-37	Monday	12:00	13:00	C_BOOLE_4
SC1006/L	Lecture	24-33, 36-37	Thursday	14:00	15:00	C_BOOLE_4
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Monday	11:00	12:00	C_CONN_S2
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Monday	13:00	14:00	C_FSB_322
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Tuesday	11:00	12:00	C_CONN_C
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Tuesday	14:00	15:00	C_CONN_S5
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Wednesday	10:00	11:00	C_WGB_G09
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Wednesday	13:00	14:00	C_WW 9
SC/1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Wednesday	16:00	17:00	C_CONN_J5
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Thursday	13:00	14:00	C_FSB_322
SC1006/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Friday	11:00	12:00	C_ORB_101
SC1006/SA	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Tuesday	15:00	16:00	C_CONN_S5

**SC1013 (B.SocSci./BSW1)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> semester (beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024):**

Dr Joan Cronin	Monday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>
Dr John O'Brien	Monday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>
Dr Ger Mullaly	Monday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>

**SC1013 Lectures and Seminars Timetable**

SC1013/L	Lecture	24-33, 36-37	Monday	12:00	13:00	C_BOOLE_1
SC1013/L	Lecture	24-33, 36-37	Tuesday	15:00	16:00	C_BOOLE_4
SC1013/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Tuesday	10:00	11:00	C_CONN S3
SC1013/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Wednesday	11:00	12:00	C_CONN_S2
SC1013/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Wednesday	16:00	17:00	C_CONN_S2
SC1013/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Thursday	12:00	13:00	C_CONN_C
SC1013/S	Seminar	24-33, 36-37	Friday	10:00	11:00	C_ORB_212

**First lectures for First Arts and First Social Science begin with in Person Introductory Lecture on September 18<sup>th</sup> (see below).**

INTRODUCTORY LECTURES 2023– 2024

First Arts (SC1005) -

Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
at 12.00 pm to 13.00 pm, Boole\_4

First Social Science / BSW (SC1012) -

Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
at 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm, Boole\_1