

PO1001 - POLITICS IN FIRST YEAR

2025 - 2026

Administration Office: Room 2.50, Block B, O’Rahilly Building

Contact Information: The administrative staff can be contacted by email at government@ucc.ie

Websites:

BA Politics: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck101/politics/>

Canvas: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/canvas/>

Department: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/government-and-politics/>

Class Times:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| • Monday | 11 am – 12 noon | Boole 3 Lecture Hall |
| • Wednesday | 2 pm - 3pm | Boole 4 Lecture Hall |
| • Thursday | 9 am- 10am | Boole 2 Lecture Hall |

Introductory Class:

Wednesday 17th September, 2-3 in Boole 4.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND ON WEDNESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER 2025

COURSE SCHEDULE

SEMESTER ONE and SEMESTER TWO

Wednesday 17th September: Introductory Class.

Section 1: Politics in Ireland with Dr Theresa Reidy

8 weeks of lectures

MCQ Exam: 29 October 2025

Essay Submission Date: 14 November 2025

Section 2: International Politics with Dr Clodagh Harrington

8 weeks of lectures

MCQ Exam: 4 February 2026

Essay Submission Date: 27 February 2026

Section 3: Political Theory with Ms Rojin Mostafavi

8 weeks of lectures

MCQ Exam: 1 April 2026

Essay Submission Date: 24 April 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Section 1: Politics in Ireland with Dr Theresa Reidy

This section will examine the workings of government and politics in the Republic of Ireland. It will explore party politics and consider voting behaviour at elections since the foundation of the state. Political institutions and recent political reforms will also be evaluated. A comparative approach will be taken throughout the section.

On completion of this section, you should have expanded your knowledge and understanding of politics in Ireland, improved your analytical ability and developed transferable skills.

Reading Materials for Section 3:

John Coakley, Michael Gallagher, Eoin O'Malley and Theresa Reidy. (Eds) *Politics in the Republic of Ireland*, 7th Edition, Routledge, 2023

Section 2: International Politics with Dr Clodagh Harrington

What are the causes and consequences of international conflict and cooperation, both in a political-military sense and a political-economy sense? What is the role of the state in international politics? We will attempt to answer these and other questions through a systematic exploration of the origins and development of the modern international system right up to the present day. War, peace-making, international organizations, ideologies and the international political economy are all essential aspects of international politics which will be examined in detail.

Reading Materials for Section 2:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics*, Oxford University Press (latest edition).

Section 3: Political Theory with Ms Rojin Mostafavi

What are political ideologies? What distinguishes one ideology from another? What is democracy, and what is the relationship between political ideologies and democratic ideals? By exploring liberalism, conservatism, socialism, nationalism, anarchism, feminism, environmentalism, religious fundamentalism, and other movements, we trace the historical origins, philosophical foundations, and key thinkers behind each ideology. In this section, we focus on how these ideologies both support and challenge the democratic ideal, defined as popular self-government grounded in political equality and individual rights.

Reading Materials for Section 3:

Ball, T., Dagger, R., O'Neill, D.I. and Kirkpatrick, J. *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*. 11th ed. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.

ASSESSMENT:

- **TOTAL MARKS: 300** [Continuous Assessment 300 marks]
- 3 x 1,500-Word Assignments 60 marks each
- 3 x In-Class Tests 40 marks each

Assessment for First Arts Politics is made up solely of “continuous assessment.”

There is no final summer exam for First Arts Politics.

Section 1: The first in-class/Canvas test will take place on **29 October** for the Politics in Ireland section.

The essay assignment is due on **14 November**.

Section 2: The second in-class test will take place on **4 February** and will cover material from Dr Clodagh Harrington’s International Politics section.

The essay assignment is due **27 February**.

Section 3: The third in-class test will take place on **1 April** and will cover material from the Political Theory section. The essay assignment is due on **24 April**.

In-Class Tests will be carried out in class unless university regulations require a change.

All assignments must be submitted via Turnitin/Canvas.

If you are unwell or face some other emergency on the day of a test, please provide appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor’s certificate) to verify the reason for the absence on that date and the department will make alternative arrangements. Students are expected to submit medical certificates by email to government@ucc.ie

Policy on Late Submissions

- All course work must be submitted by the prescribed deadline.
- Work which is submitted late shall be assigned a mark of zero.
- If, prior to the deadline, exceptional circumstances arise preventing the student from working towards completion of an assignment, a student can apply for a waiver of the penalty at the link included on the Department's home page.
- In general, waivers will not be granted retrospectively, i.e. students must apply before the essay deadline.
- Waivers requested from the Department of Government and Politics are only applicable to assignments due in modules with a GV or a PO code. Any other module in which a student is seeking to submit after the deadline should contact the relevant department.
- Students who are unavoidably absent from in-class tests and/or oral presentations may also apply under this scheme for permission to take these elements of the assessment process at a later date, *in consultation with the relevant lecturer*.
- Applications must be made on the prescribed form available on the Department of Government and Politics' homepage. They must include formal documented evidence of the specific circumstance(s) which **relates directly to the date** of the assessment(s) for the module(s) identified.
- Supporting documentation:
 - should detail the substantial and material impact on a student's ability to prepare for or sit the examination for that module(s),
 - may include: medical certification (see below); official bereavement notices; travel documentation (e.g. tickets); official communication from the Gardaí; all commonly used forms of certification/notification of diagnosis, etc.
- Information provided in the personal statement and associated supporting documentation must correlate with the date/time of the examination.
- Incomplete applications (e.g. where supporting documentation is not provided or is not directly aligned with the module(s) identified in the application) will be automatically rejected.

Medical certification:

- If illness, as supported by appropriate medical certification, prevents a student from meeting a deadline for the submission of an essay, or other assigned work for assessment, then an appropriate extension may be granted.
- All documentation submitted will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.
- Retrospective medical certification will only be accepted for consideration in exceptional circumstances, where legitimate reasons for lack of submission within the defined timeframe are demonstrated.

- Each medical certificate, provided by a relevant professional medical practitioner, who must not be a first degree or second degree relative of the student, should:
 - i. specify the name, address and MCRN number of the prescribing doctor
 - ii. identify the date of the examination/GP visit
 - iii. identify the date the certificate was issued
 - iv. align directly with the date of the examination/assessment impacted
 - v. verify the nature of the circumstances submitted by the student
 - vi. specify the date of return to study or identify a chronic/on-going condition
 - vii. state the impact on the student's ability to attend for examination/submit the relevant programme assessment(s)
 - viii. be returned to the School/Department no later than TWO WEEKS after the date of examination/assessment deadline or approved assessment submission date.
 - ix. be legible.

Exceptional circumstances for which an application for an extension will be considered:

A. Death of parent/guardian, sibling, spouse, child (or person to whom the student is *in loco parentis*), if within sufficient proximity to the examination to have **substantial and material effect**.

B. Death of mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparent/grandchild or any person who was habitually resident in the home of the applicant, if within sufficient proximity to the examination to have **substantial and material effect**.

C. Debilitating illness/condition, if within sufficient proximity to the examination to have **substantial and material effect**.

D. Circumstances **outside the control of the applicant**, which make it legally or physically impossible for the student to attend the examination in a particular module.

E. Other circumstances considered to be **analogous** to any of the above.

F. Pregnancy.

Examples of circumstances for which an extension will not be granted:

- a. Hectic social life; parties; visits to/from friends
- b. Moving house; weddings; holidays; failed transport arrangements; commuting distances
- c. Computer breakdowns; laptop malfunctions; printing failures; poor wifi

***The lateness waiver policy does not apply to take-home exams which will need to be taken at the Autumn repeat examinations. In such cases the Module Coordinator must be contacted.**

For more information, see:

https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/academicsecretariat/policies/examinations/v012UCC_Guide_to_Examinations_and_Assessment_.pdf

NOTE PLEASE:

- Students should not email medical certificates or notes of absences to individual lecturers – these should always be emailed to government@ucc.ie

Procedures for Repeat Assessments in Summer 2026

If you fail the module **overall** (less than 40% in total) then you will have to repeat any of the continuous assessment elements that you failed or did not submit. Passed elements of continuous assessment are carried forward.

STUDENTS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Work which is **submitted late** shall be assigned a mark of **ZERO** (or a Fail Judgement in the case of Pass/Fail modules).
2. **University Policy on handling Plagiarism**
 - a) As soon as possible after the submission, the lecturer reviews the assignments and checks for plagiarism.
 - b) Where plagiarism is suspected, the lecturer informs the Head of Department (HOD) and the relevant administrator.
 - c) Where plagiarism is established, a meeting is scheduled with the student to outline/explain the case of plagiarism and the penalty to be applied. This meeting is attended by lecturer and HOD (or HOD's nominee). The penalty to be applied is at the discretion of the HOD.
 - d) The lecturer advises the relevant administrator of the outcome of the meeting. Communication is sent to the student by the HOD/Administrator.
 - e) In cases where the plagiarism is adjudged to be particularly egregious, the HOD and the team will complete the Student Records and Examinations Office (SREO) policy template report and forward it to the SREO. Communication is sent to the student to outline what was discussed at the meeting and the penalty to be applied. This communication will also advise the student of their options under the University's Breach of Examination Regulations process.