

# **BSC GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (CK122)**

## **Handbook for Academic Year 2025-2026**





It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Department of Government and Politics.

Never has it been a more exciting time to study Government and Politics. The many challenges we face, a global pandemic, climate change, the migration crisis, the rise of far-right populism, etc. require complex, creative and collaborative responses. It is imperative for us as global citizens to work individually and collectively to resolve them.

As students in our Department, you will be introduced to concepts of democracy, conflict resolution, policy making, political decision making (at the local, national, European and Global level), and international relations.

Through your participation in class and elsewhere across the University, you will develop the knowledge and skills to critically assess and address key political issues of the day as well as build on your existing transferable skills (most notably through your work placement).

As a Department, we endeavour to provide an energetic and supportive learning environment through our student-friendly approach to education, our mentoring programme and our public events. Ultimately our wish is for each and every one of you to join our expanding cohort of successful graduates. We look forward to working with you as you embark on this exciting journey through College.

Wishing you every success,

**Dr Liam Weeks**  
**Head of Department**



## Contact Details

# Department of Government & Politics

Roinn Léann an Rialtais agus na Polaitíochta

2nd Floor, Block B, O'Rahilly Building, University College Cork, Republic of Ireland,

✉ government@ucc.ie ☎ 353 (0)21 490 2009 / 2770 📍 Location 🔗 http://www.ucc.ie

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

## Academic Staff

### Professors



**Prof. Andrew Cottey's** research and teaching interests are in the following areas: international relations and global governance; foreign, security and defence policy; European security, including NATO; the EU's foreign security and defence policy; central and eastern Europe; conflict prevention and management; problems of international military intervention; civil-military relations and democracy.

Email: [a.cottey@ucc.ie](mailto:a.cottey@ucc.ie)

Phone: 021 490 3899

Office: ORB\_2.49



**Prof. Theresa Reidy's** research interests lie in the area of Irish politics, with a particular focus on voting behaviour at referendums and elections.

Email: [t.reidy@ucc.ie](mailto:t.reidy@ucc.ie) Phone: 021 490 3028

Office: ORB\_2.52



## Senior Lecturers



**Dr. Fiona Buckley's** main research and teaching interests are in the areas of women in politics; Irish politics; electoral integrity; experiential learning in political science. Biography [here](#).

Email: [f.buckley@ucc.ie](mailto:f.buckley@ucc.ie) Phone: 021 490 3237

Office: ORB\_2.45



**Dr. Laurence Davis** specialises in political theory and ideologies, with a particular expertise in radical political thought. He is also responsible for the department's teaching in the area of U.S. politics.

Email: [l.davis@ucc.ie](mailto:l.davis@ucc.ie) Phone: 021 490 3472

Office: ORB\_2.46



**Dr. Niall Duggan** has a strong interest in developing and testing IR theories – in particular, role theory and neo-Gramscian approaches. Dr Duggan's research has focused on how ideas and concepts can affect a national role in IR. He has conducted research in Sino-EU and Asia-EU relations.

Email: [n.duggan@ucc.ie](mailto:n.duggan@ucc.ie) Phone: 021 4903238

Office: ORB\_2.10



**Dr. Clodagh Harris'** research focuses on deliberative and participatory democracy, democratic innovations, intergenerational deliberation, and deliberative democracy and climate change.

Email: [clodagh.harris@ucc.ie](mailto:clodagh.harris@ucc.ie) Phone: 021 490 2941

Office: ORB\_2.53



**Dr. Aodh Quinlivan** specialises in local government studies and in reform of the public sector. He has written 11 books about different aspects of local government, local elections and public sector management.

Email: [a.quinlivan@ucc.ie](mailto:a.quinlivan@ucc.ie) Phone: 021 490 3368

Office: ORB\_2.54



**Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** completed her doctoral research on the institutional impact of the administrative reforms launched by Kinnock in the European Commission. Her research interests include organisational and institutional change, European institutions, public management and public administration, French politics, comparative European politics and European citizenship.

Email: [e.schon@ucc.ie](mailto:e.schon@ucc.ie)

Phone: 021 490 2325

Office: ORB\_2.47



**Dr. Liam Weeks** is the Head of Department. His main research interests include comparative politics, but particularly electoral systems, political parties and voting behaviour. He is interested in most aspects of Irish politics.

Email: [l.weeks@ucc.ie](mailto:l.weeks@ucc.ie)

Phone: 021 490 2981

Office: ORB\_2.51

## **Emeritus Professor**



**Prof. Neil Collins** brings a strong academic profile to the Department deriving from his extensive experience in America, Britain and Ireland. He is the author of a standard text on Irish Politics, *Irish Politics Today*, now in its fourth edition. He has also published in the leading political science and marketing journals in Europe. His current research interests are in political corruption, clientelism and e-politics.

Email: [n.collins@ucc.ie](mailto:n.collins@ucc.ie)

## **Administrative Staff**

The Departmental Administrative office is located in Room 2.50.

The Undergraduate Programmes Administrator is **Irene Halpin**.

Her contact details are: 021 490 2770 or [I.Halpin@ucc.ie](mailto:I.Halpin@ucc.ie).



The Work Placement Manager is **Dearbhail O'Callaghan**.

Dearbhail can be contacted at [dearbhair.ocallaghan@ucc.ie](mailto:dearbhair.ocallaghan@ucc.ie) and she is located in ORB\_2.48.

\*During the third year of the BSc Government and Political Science degree, students undertake a work placement for 12 weeks. This work placement is facilitated by Dearbhail O'Callaghan and she will engage with students over their four years on the programme.



# Term Dates 2025-2026

***ORIENTATION for Year I: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025***



## **Autumn semester**

Monday 8 September – Friday 28 November – All years except first year

Monday 15 September – Friday 5 December – First Years

Directed Study Week – Monday 20 October – Friday 24 October

(There are no Government lectures on BSc GPS programme that week)

Study Review Week (All years except first year): 1 December – 5 December

Study Review Week (**first year**): 8 December – 12 December

WINTER EXAMINATIONS: Monday 8 December – Friday 21 December (all years except first year)

WINTER EXAMINATIONS: Monday 15 December – Friday 21 December (**first year**)

CHRISTMAS RECESS: Monday 22 December– Sunday 11 January

## **Spring semester**

SPRING CLASS DATES: Monday 12 January – Friday 3 April

Directed Study Week: Monday 2 March - Friday 6 March

EASTER RECESS: Saturday 4 April – Sunday 19 April (inclusive)

STUDY REVIEW WEEK: Monday 20 April – Thursday 23 April

FINAL EXAMINATIONS: Friday 24 April – Friday 8 May

Repeat Exams: Autumn Exams start 31 July 2026.

\*For Third Year BSc Government and Political Science students, the second semester typically runs for 6-8 weeks with Spring exams thereafter (to facilitate placement).

# BSc Government and Political Science

## Programme Content

Please see the programme outline on the UCC website: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck122/>

Specific information on the content of each year is available at <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/bscgps/>

Pay particular attention to the marks and standards for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year and the rules governing the calculation of the final degree mark.

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that they register for the correct combination of modules for each year of the programme. Failure to do so will result in the student having to complete supplemental modules in the Summer period.

Details on individual modules can be accessed at <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/modules/>

Timetables for each year of the programme are available at:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/build/roombookings/timetables/>

### **Assessment submission process**

Assignments should be submitted through Turnitin on the Canvas site of each module.

Assignments which are submitted late will be given a mark of zero.

In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible to avail of a late penalty waiver. More information on this policy can be found at:

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

### **Medical Certificates**

The Department supports students who have genuine difficulties and asks students to please be aware of and observe the following procedures:

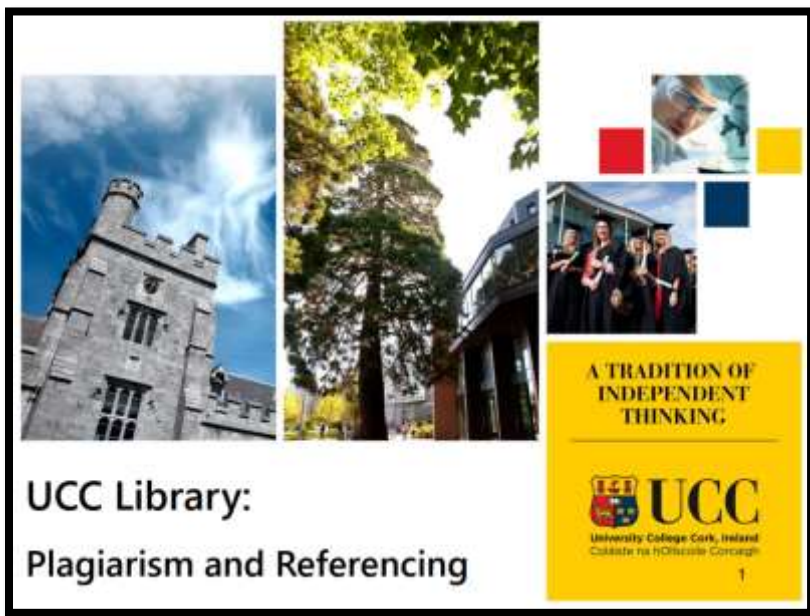
Medical Certificates must be submitted to the administration office (ORB 2.50) or by emailing [government@ucc.ie](mailto:government@ucc.ie) no later than two weeks after the date of examination/assessment deadline or approved assessment submission date. Flexibility will be allowed in exceptional circumstances that prevent submission within the two-week window.

A medical certificate should include the following details:

The name and address of the prescribing doctor, the date of the examination/GP visit, the date the certificate was issued specifying the date of return to study or identify a chronic/on-going condition, state the impact on the student's ability to attend lectures, tutorials, examinations/submit the relevant programme assessment(s), the student's name.



## **Plagiarism**



<https://libguides.ucc.ie/academicintegrity/referencing>

## **Library Guides and Training Sessions**

<https://libguides.ucc.ie/libraryessentials>

## **Grading Policy**

The department follows guidelines of the National University of Ireland (NUI) while grading students' work. The descriptors are available at [NUIMarksBands.pdf](#)

## Information for First Years

Freshers' Fest is on Saturday 13 September 2025. More information is available at [www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/events/festivals](http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/events/festivals)


[The Kit | University College Cork](#)

# The Kit

your 24/7 guide to life and study in UCC

### Step 1


Login to Canvas using your UCC student email and password



Canvas

### Step 2


Click on the Success Zone module






Dashboard  
Published Courses (2)  
STUDENT SUCCESS ZONE  
Success Zone - UCC's Success Zone Module Site

### Step 3

Explore *The Kit*'s tips and tricks on how to settle into UCC, getting to know campus its facilities. Learn how to manage your time, finances, study skills, assignment schedules, and avail of free supports such as the **Skills Centre**. Enjoy our guidance on how to get involved, where to go for help, where to go for supports, and information on courses, exams, and university policies.



Welcome Academic Integrity The Kit Canvas & IT Graduate Attributes Skills Centre Library Exams  
Bystander Intervention Career Services  
**The Kit**  
Introducing: The Kit  
The Kit is an excellent resource which allows you to become familiar with UCC's landscape and all that the university has to offer - before you arrive! In this self-guided resource, you will learn about the different student programmes and apps available to you, how you can get involved in campus activities, how UCC encourages you to be part of its healthy campus, and more. The Kit is an important introduction to everything you need to know about studying at UCC, allowing you to step onto campus feeling confident of the facilities and aware of any resources you might need and where to find them. You can access The Kit here in the Success Zone throughout your time in UCC. It is here whenever you need it, allowing you to use this newfound knowledge to enjoy the UCC experience and focus on your course.  
Part 1 - Know Before You Go  
Part 2 - Finding Your Feet  
Part 3 - Skills To Add To Your Kit  
Part 4 - Know As You Go  
Part 5 - Setting Your Goals



Created by Skills Centre and funded by National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education