



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

HDip POLITICS Programme Guide

Administration Office: Room 2.50, Block B, O'Rahilly Building (ORB), UCC

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

Contact Information: government@ucc.ie

Programme requirements: <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/hdapo/#programmerequirementstext>

2026/2027

WELCOME

The Politics team is delighted to welcome you to University College Cork. We are very pleased that you have decided to join us. We hope that your studies at UCC will provide you with an interesting and engaging introduction to the study of politics and help you to acquire high-level knowledge and analytical skills.

We endeavour to offer a student friendly environment for learning. Please reach out to us - government@ucc.ie - if you have questions or if you are encountering difficulties. We also

encourage you to avail of UCC's many facilities, in particular the library, but also the student clubs, societies and sporting facilities. Similarly, we hope that you will make time to participate in events organised by the Politics team during your studies at UCC.

We wish you the very best of luck with your studies and look forward to working with you during your time at UCC.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Higher Diploma in Arts (Politics) at University College Cork is intended for those who already have a degree and who want to study politics intensively over one academic year full-time or two academic years part-time (by day). This is a conversion course so you would not normally have studied politics to honours degree level previously. It is aimed at graduates who may wish to be considered for a master's course in politics subsequently (but do not have an honours degree in the relevant area) or who may want to add politics to their qualifications.

POLITICS TEAM

The Politics Subject is an interdepartmental programme, taught jointly by staff from the Department of Government and Politics, the School of History and the Department of Philosophy.

Staff are drawn from a broad range of specialist backgrounds creating a diverse and innovative learning environment for students.

The key personnel involved in the management and running of the programme are:

Dr Fiona Buckley
Academic Director

Department of Government and Politics
Email: f.buckley@ucc.ie

Ms Irene Halpin
Course Administrator
Department of Government and Politics
Email: government@ucc.ie

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Higher Diploma in Politics consists of modules to the value of **60 credits** taken full-time over one year or part-time over two years. It is recommended that part-time students take a maximum of 35 credits per year.

COMPULSORY MODULES

Students must register for two modules – PO2001 (5 credits) and PO3001 (10 credits). These modules teach core research and analytical skills.

PO2001 POLITICAL ANALYSIS (5 CREDITS)

Module Objective: Develop critical awareness of different approaches to the study of politics.

Module Content: Introduces a range of approaches and methods used in the study of contemporary political phenomena. Examines how we acquire knowledge about political ideas, institutions, processes, practices and outcomes. Attention is devoted to positivist and interpretivist understandings.

Module Timetable:

Week 6-17	Thursday	12:00 - 14:00	C_WGB_G08
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NB: The first class on Thursday 10th September will include a general introduction to Politics Second Year modules.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment 100 marks (1 x in-class test (30 marks) and 2 x assignments (35 marks each)).

Staff: Dr Fiona Buckley (f.buckley@ucc.ie), Department of Government and Politics; Dr Clodagh Harrington, (charrington@ucc.ie), School of History; and Dr Jason Dockstader (j.dockstader@ucc.ie), Department of Philosophy.

PO3001 DISSERTATION (10 CREDITS)

Module Objective: To equip students with a detailed knowledge of one particular subject within politics; to develop students' capacity to undertake independent political research in their own research time and in consultation with an academic supervisor.

Module Content: Independent research on a theme chosen in consultation with staff.

Module Timetable:

Week 6	Wednesday	13.00 – 14.00	CPB_LG01
Week 7-17	ON-LINE		see Canvas for link

NB: The first class will be in person on **Wednesday 11th September 13:00 – 14:00** in **CPB_LG01**.

PO3001 classes are delivered in the first semester only. Student research continues in the second semester.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1,000 word research proposal (20 marks) to be submitted in November, presentations during Study Week (20 marks) and a 9,000 word dissertation (160 marks) to be submitted on a date specified by the Politics Programme.)

Staff: Dr Liam Weeks (l.weeks@ucc.ie) Department of Government and Politics; Dr Jérôme Aan De Wiel, (J.AanDeWiel@ucc.ie) School of History; and Dr Jason Dockstader (j.dockstader@ucc.ie), Department of Philosophy

ELECTIVE MODULES

In addition to registering for **PO2001 (5 credits)** and **PO3001 (10 credits)**, students of the HDip Politics are required to register for:

15 credits consisting of one module from each of the following subject groups

Group 1: ES2022, ES2027, ES2032, ES2033, ES2036, HI2048 (5 credits per module)

Group 2: GV2229, GV2239, GV2241, GV3210, GV3212, GV3215 (5 credits per module)

Group 3: PH2002, PH2004, PH2012, PH2017, PH2023, PH2028, PH2035 (5 credits per module).

A general overview of the above listed modules will be provided at 12pm, on Thursday 10th September in WGB_G08.

15 credits consisting of one module from each of the following subject groups

Group 1: ES4025, HI3024, HI3045, HI3128, HI3129 (5 credit modules)

Group 2: GV3109, GV3216, GV3217, GV4401, GV4409, GV4410, GV4414, GV4416, PO3005 (5 credit modules)

Group 3: PH3025, PH3036, PH3041, PH3042, PH3048 (5 credit modules).

A general overview of the above listed modules will be provided at 1pm, on Monday 7th September in WW9.

15 credits from any of the above listed modules, subject to timetable constraints.

Please be careful to ensure that there are no timetable clashes when you choose electives. You can do this by referring to the BA2 and BA3 timetables at this [link](#).

More detailed information on all of the modules listed above – including module title, content, assessment, learning outcomes and teaching staff – can be found in the [UCC Book of Modules](#). Please consult the Book of Modules carefully when making your module choices.

You may also consult both the Politics Year 2 and Final Year Politics handbooks, both available from the Department of Government & Politics, email: government@ucc.ie

If you experience any technical difficulties with the online registration process or module registration, you should contact the Student Records and Examinations Office (SREO) who manage the student records for programme and module registration, Tel 021 4902422 or email: sreo@ucc.ie

If you have questions about an individual module, please email the individual lecturer or government@ucc.ie and your email will be directed to the relevant lecturer.

Once registered, students are advised to consult [Canvas](#) (UCC's virtual learning environment). Each module should have its own Canvas site (unless advised otherwise by the module lecturer) and will provide detailed information about the teaching format for 2026/2027.

STUDENTS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY'S PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Work which is submitted late shall be assigned a mark of **zero** (or a Fail Judgement in the case of Pass/Fail modules).

University Policy on handling plagiarism

- e) As soon as possible after the submission, the lecturer reviews the assignments and checks for plagiarism.
- e) Where plagiarism is suspected, the lecturer informs the Head of Department (HoD) and the relevant administrator.
- e) 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.
- e) 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.

University policy on academic integrity and the use of AI

“Academic Integrity is breached if students submit the products of GenAI as their own work without acknowledgement or without authorisation to use GenAI in fulfilling the task”.

For more information, please see the university’s policy:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/academicgov/policies/standards/academicintegrityforcontinuousassessments>

OTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Boole Library	https://libguides.ucc.ie/library
Career Services	https://www.ucc.ie/en/careers/
Disability Support	https://www.ucc.ie/en/dss/
Graduate Studies Office	https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/postgrad/contactus/
IT Student Support	https://www.ucc.ie/en/sit/
Mardyke Arena	https://www.mardykearena.com/
Student Experience Office	https://www.ucc.ie/en/studentexperience/
Student Health and Wellbeing	https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/
UCC Societies	https://societies.ucc.ie/
UCC Skills Centre	https://www.ucc.ie/en/skillscentre/
Student Financial Supports & Advice	https://www.ucc.ie/en/sfsa/