



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY



(Module Codes: SC1005, SC1006, SC1012 and SC1017)

1st Year Coordinator: Dr Amin Sharifi Isaloo

2025-2026

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.

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 Tracey Skillington
Head of the Department of Sociology & Criminology
University College Cork

Welcome to Sociology!

Is there a better time to study Sociology? We are living through a period of deep uncertainty and social transition. Global crises - such as the Covid 19 pandemic, protracted conflicts and ongoing genocide, the climate emergency, and the resurgence of far-right ideologies - bring many social issues into sharper focus. These can exacerbate structural inequalities, economic and housing crises, global inhumanities, digital divides, and the spread of extremist violence, to name but a few. At the same time, we witness the rise of various social movements of resistance and hope, including anti-war activism, the global Palestine solidarity movement, pro-democracy and climate movements and renewed struggles for justice and equality. These are also some of the topics we research and teach in Sociology.

In our programme you'll explore a wide range of sociological questions through a diverse suite of modules including: social theory, sociology of violence, 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 and family life. 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.

The sections below contain further information on the undergraduate Sociology programme, our Department and its academic policies. If you have any questions regarding a particular module, please contact the coordinator of that module. Please do not hesitate to email me (theresa.okeefe@ucc.ie) if you have any further questions.

We very much look forward to guiding you on your learning journey.

Dr Theresa O'Keefe
Director, Undergraduate Studies

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 1 hour seminar every week during the 1st and 2nd 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.

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.

The sections below contain further information regarding the mode of delivery for each module. If you have any queries regarding seminars, please contact me at amin.sharifiisaloo@ucc.ie. If you have any questions regarding a particular module, please contact the coordinator of that module or your lecturer or your tutor. We very much look forward to guiding you on your learning journey and we hope you will have an enjoyable and productive first year learning with the Department of Sociology.

Dr Amin Sharifi Isaloo
Coordinator of the 1st Undergraduate Programme
& 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.

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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 SC1017 for Social Science, Criminology, and Anthropology students. SC1005 (Arts) and SC1012 (Social Science / Criminology/ Anthropology) are taught in Semester 1 (five credits); SC1006 (Arts) and SC1017 (Social Science /Criminology / Anthropology) are taught in Semester 2 (ten credits). SC1005 and SC1012 will be delivered by three lecturers in the first semester (September – December). SC1006 and SC1017 will be delivered by three lecturers in the second semester (January – April).

LECTURES:

First Arts (B.A.) SC1005/SC1006 - *BSW will only take SC1006 during the 2nd semester.

Monday 12- 1pm, Boole_4

Thursday 2-3pm, Boole_4

First Social Science / Social Work (B.Soc.Sc) SC1012/SC1017- *BSW will only take SC1012 during the 1st semester.

SC1012 & SC1017: Monday 12-1pm, Boole_1

SC1012: Tuesday 3-4pm, GG_LT

SC1017: Tuesday 3-4pm, Boole 4

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 15th September 2025.

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

SC1005 and SC1012

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

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

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

SC1006 and SC1017

Dr Mastoureh Fathi (mastoureh.fathi@ucc.ie)-

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

Dr Gema Kloppe-Santamaría (gkloppe-santamaria@ucc.ie)

MAIN OFFICE:

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

Please contact Gemma McCarthy (gemmamccarthy@ucc.ie) or Caroline Healy (caroline.healy@ucc.ie) for an appointment.

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 Amin Sharifi Isaloo. If you have any queries regarding the course, please contact him. His email address aminsharifisaloo@ucc.ie, and his office is located on the 2nd floor of the Askive building on Donovan Road.

*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

Plagiarism means passing off material that is not your own, as if it is your own. Directly copying from a source, and not citing that source, is the most obvious form of plagiarism. But submitting any work without full and proper acknowledgment of the sources you are using will bring that work within the scope of the UCC plagiarism policy. In the first instance, plagiarized work will receive a mark of zero, and the sanction will be recorded at the Student Records and Examinations Office (SREO). Cases of plagiarism may also be referred to, and handled directly by, SREO's exam compliance team.

The most reliable way to avoid plagiarism is always to ensure that you are fully and properly citing your sources, as well as being careful to use quotation marks when you are directly quoting. It is your own responsibility to make sure you know how to cite sources properly. Tutors will go over this in class, while the UCC library also provides a range of helpful guides: <https://libguides.ucc.ie/academicintegrity/referencing>. Note that the use of ChatGPT, or any similar tool, to generate work, also counts as plagiarism, and the same penalties will apply. This includes using such a tool to suggest a structure or to make sense of a question (in other words, you don't have to copy directly for it to count as plagiarism). The best thing is simply to not use these tools, unless directed to do so for a specific purpose: while we refer to large language models as 'artificial intelligence,' they are really just word-prediction machines, automatically generating text based on a calculation of probability about the next most plausible word is in any given sequence. This looks (and is) impressive but it also produces text that is at best superficial, while demonstrating no real knowledge, and often being startling full of errors. Note that some departments at UCC, or elsewhere, may permit use of these tools, once such usage is properly acknowledged. However, unless you are explicitly told otherwise for a specific assignment, this is not the case in sociology, where such usage is forbidden.

If you have any questions about plagiarism, including if you want non-judgmental pre-submission advice about whether something you're doing may unintentionally count as plagiarism, you can email Des Fitzgerald, the department plagiarism officer: desfitzgerald@ucc.ie.

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 is examined by **continuous assessment** (for 5 credits) which will comprise 2 x 1200-word written assignments (40 marks each) with participation worth 20 marks.

SC1012 is examined by continuous assessment (for 5 credits) which will comprise 2 x1200-word written assignments (50 marks each).

SEMESTER 1

Assignment One (Mark 40%)- 1st Semester

Topics set: Oct 23rd 2025
Submission date: Nov 13th 2025

For this assignment, you will be asked to write a 1200-word essay on your chosen topic. The essay question will be circulated on Canvas.

Assignment Two (Mark 40%)- 1st Semester

Topics set: Nov 27th 2025
Submission date: Dec 18th 2025

For this second assignment, you are required to write a 1200-word essay on a chosen topic. The essay question will be circulated on Canvas.

SEMESTER 2

SC1006 Continuous Assessment 200 Marks which will consist of:

- Essay - 3 x 1200-1500 word essays (150 Marks)
- Participation - Participation in seminars' discussions (50 Marks)

SC1017 Continuous Assessment 100 Marks which will consist of:

- 2 x 1200 word essay (100 Marks)

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 1stYear. 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 15th 2025)

1. Prof 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.

What it is like to become sick or ill.

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

Course outline:

1. Introduction to Medical Sociology and health inequalities.
2. The Medical Sociological Imagination.
3. Stigma.
4. Medicalization and neurodivergence.
5. Illness narratives in rock and metal music.

Course material:

All readings will be linked to on canvas.

3. 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.

SECOND SEMESTER (beginning Monday, January 12th, 2026)

1. Dr Mastoureh Fathi – Introduction to Sociology of Family Life

What is sociological imagination and what does thinking sociologically mean? In this part of the course, we will learn about sociology as a systematic study of human society and will focus on family and household. Thinking about families and relationships necessitates thinking in a different way than watching a documentary film, reading a memoir or a simply describing events. Sociological thinking allows students to capture the underlying explanations as to why things happen in such a way in a given society and family unit.

This introductory course will focus on some key sociological research on family life and issues such as parenting, childhood experiences of family, social class and violence within families.

Key readings:

1. Cheal, D. (2008) *Families in Today's World*, Abingdon: Routledge.
2. Treas, J., Scott, J. and Richards, M. (2014) *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Families*. Wiley and Sons Ltd.
3. Adler, M. and Lenz, K. (2023) *The Changing Faces of Families: Diverse Family Forms in Various Policy Contexts*. Routledge Studies in Family Sociology
4. Dermott, E; Seymour, J. (2011) *Displaying Families: A New Concept for the Sociology of Family Life*. Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life.
5. O'Brien, Margaret (2017) *Comparative Perspectives on Work-Life Balance and Gender Equality: Fathers on Leave Alone*. Life Course Research and Social Policies.
6. Carsten, Janet; Chiu, Hsiao-Chiao; Magee, Siobhan, Papadaki, Eirini; Reece, Koreen M. (2021) *Marriage in Past, Present and Future Tense*.
7. Šimić, Lena and Underwood-Lee, Emily (eds.) (2023) [*Mothering Performance: Maternal Action*](#) Routledge Advances in Theatre & Performance Studies.

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.

3. Dr Gema Kloppe-Santamaría

Violence, Emotions, and Cultural Politics: An Introduction

Violence is a central feature of contemporary life. Lethal and non-lethal forms of violence shape and impact inter-personal relations, social interactions, and the relationship between citizens and the state. Although the global count of homicides has remained stable over the last two decades, in the year 2021 alone, there were approximately 458,000 victims of homicide according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with lethality levels being the highest in the Americas. Even in countries that have transitioned from civil war to peace or from authoritarian regimes to democratic systems, violence – perpetrated by individuals, criminal groups, state actors, or all the above– has remained a pervasive reality in the lives of citizens.

This section of the course offers an introduction to the sociology of violence and the ways in which violence intersects with emotions and cultural politics. We will revise classic and contemporary sociological approaches to the study of violence and reflect on how different scholars have theorized, historicized, and classified the causes, manifestations, and effects of violence. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between violence, politics, emotions, gender, and culture. We will furthermore examine why certain forms of violence have traditionally received greater attention by scholars, public officials, media, and public opinion more broadly, and what are the consequences the visibility or invisibility of these violence(s) have for their occurrence and reproduction.

Course outline

1. What is violence? Historical and contemporary debates
2. Typologies violence: causes, manifestations, consequences
3. Violence, politics, and the state
4. Structural and symbolic violence
5. Violence and the cultural politics of emotions
6. Collective violence: riots, lynchings, and vigilantism
7. Femicides and gender-based violence

8. Invisible violence, spectacular violence

Selected texts (key readings for each week will be available via canvas):

Ahmed, S. (2014). *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*. Edinburgh University Press.

Butler, J. (2016). *Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable?* United Kingdom: Verso.

Collins, R. (2008). *Violence: A Micro-sociological Theory*. Princeton University Press.

Elias, Norbert (1939/1969). *The Civilizing Process*. New York: Urizen Books.

Fanon, Frantz (1961) *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York :Grove Press, 1968.

Fujii, L. A. (2021). *Show Time: The Logic and Power of Violent Display* (M. Finnemore, Ed.). Cornell University Press.

Scheff, T. J., & Retzinger, S. M. (1991). *Emotions and violence: Shame and rage in destructive conflicts*. Lexington Books/D. C. Heath and Com.

Scheper-Hughes, N. & P. Bourgois (Eds.) (2003) *Violence in War and Peace: An Anthology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Segato, R. (2025) *The War Against Women*, Polity Press.

Tilly, C. (2003) *The Politics of Collective Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Walby, S., Towers, J., Balderston, S., Corradi, C., Francis, B., Heiskanen, M., Helweg-Larsen, K., Mergaert, L., Olive, P., Palmer, E., Stöckl, H., & Strid, S. (2017). *The concept and measurement of violence against women and men*. Policy Press.

LECTURES SCHEDULE (2025 – 2026)

1st Semester

BA1: SC1005- Semester 1 (beginning September 15th, 2025):

Prof Kieran Keohane	Monday, September 15 th
Dr Myles Balfe	Monday, October 13 th
Dr John O'Brien	Monday, November 10 th

B.SocSc1. / BSW1 SC1012- Semester 1 (beginning September 15th, 2025):

John O'Brien	Monday, September 15 th
Prof Kieran Keohane	Monday, October 13 th
Dr Myles Balfe	Monday, November 10 th

2nd semester

SC1006 (BA 1./BSW1) 2nd semester (beginning January 12th, 2026):

Dr Mastoureh Fathi	Monday, January 12 th
Dr Ger Mullaly	Monday, February 9 th
Dr Gema Kloppe-Santamaría	Monday, March 9 th

SC1017 (B.SocSc1) 2nd semester (beginning January 12th, 2026):

Dr Gema Kloppe-Santamaría	Monday, January 12 th
Dr Mastoureh Fathi	Monday, February 9 th
Dr Ger Mullaly	Monday, March 9 th

First lectures for First Arts and First Social Science begin with in Person Introductory Lecture on September 15th (see below).

INTRODUCTORY LECTURES 2025– 2026

**First Arts (SC1005) - Monday, September 15th, 2025
at 12.00 pm to 13.00 pm, Boole_4**

**First Social Science / BSW (SC1012) - Monday, September 15th, 2025
at 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm, Boole_1**