



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil na hEolaíochta Polaitiúla
agus na Socheolaíochta
School of Political Science
and Sociology

BA Government: (Politics, Economics and Law)

Student Handbook



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Welcome

I would like to welcome all new BA Government (Politics, Economics and Law) undergraduates and returning students to University of Galway for the 2025/26 academic year.

I hope that you will all enjoy your course in Government, as well as the cultural and social activities that University of Galway and the city of Galway have to offer. I encourage you to take part in as many of the activities of the University as possible. Join clubs and societies and take part in activities; it is by doing this that you can really connect with the University experience and make the most of your time here.

Most of the teaching takes place in person, on campus. Attend all your lectures and seminars and take part actively. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with staff with any specific questions that may arise. There are support staff to assist you, and as the BA Government Programme Director, I will be available to advise and support you. This handbook gives you the key information about your course. Please read pages 1-7, and the information concerning your year of study, carefully.

As Programme Director, I will take overall responsibility for the running of the programme. My office hours are Thursdays 3-4pm, please do not hesitate to call in (room 224, Áras Moyola). Or email to request a different time slot, hanna-kaisa.hoppania@universityofgalway.ie.

My colleagues Aidan Kane from the Discipline of Economics is your liaison for this subject, and Ursula Connolly from the School of Law for this discipline.

Best of luck in academic year 25/26!

Hanna-Kaisa Hoppania
Programme Director, BA Government (Politics,
Economics and Law)
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Important Information

1. Academic Calendar Dates

Here you will find a list of important upcoming dates for the 25/26 academic year, including; study weeks, exam dates, holidays, etc.: [Academic Term Dates - University of Galway](#).

2. Attendance

It is the duty of a student to attend every scheduled lecture/tutorial and to undertake other academic activities (such as essay assignments, laboratory classes, project work, seminars, tutorials etc.) as required in each of the subjects, unless prevented by some unavoidable cause of absence. Students, therefore, are strongly recommended to attend all module lectures and tutorials. In the case of the latter, without weekly participation (i.e. by keeping up with the prescribed or recommended readings and by making a contribution to class discussion) it is highly unlikely that students will produce work of a standard expected from small-group teaching and learning.

3. Canvas

[Canvas](#) is a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). A VLE is a web-based application designed to facilitate lecturers in the management of modules for their students, especially by helping lecturers and learners with course administration. A VLE is used to supplement face-to-face lectures and tutorials. Learn all about Canvas [here](#).

4. Referencing

The School of Political Science and Sociology advises that students **must use** the Harvard (UL) Referencing Style for all assignments and essays. Details on the Harvard (UL) referencing style, and examples, are available from the University of Galway library [here](#).

5. Academic Writing Centre

[The Academic Writing Centre \(AWC\)](#) provides one-on-one tutorials and email consultations on essay writing. These are free and available to everyone, regardless of experience or grade average. They are located in the main Library.

6. Academic Integrity Policy

[Academic integrity](#) is a fundamental value of any university community. As a principle, it assumes that all student interactions with the academic institution are entered into in the spirit of honesty. This value gives the student responsibility for ensuring that all assignments that they submit for academic purposes are their own work.

7. Disability Support Service (DSS)

Disability support is available to University of Galway students who need support or reasonable accommodations due to the impact of a disability, ongoing physical or mental health condition, or a specific learning difficulty. These supports are provided through DSS. Click [here](#) for further information.

8. Exam Support

Student Services have a range of valuable supports on offer to help you both before and during exams. Workshops, helplines and online resources are just some of the many options available and have been developed. [Here](#) is a list of useful policies and procedures. You will also find information about exam repeats, appeals, deferrals, past papers, alternative arrangements, etc.

9. Student Enquiry Centre

For any enquiries about student life, services and support, contact the [Student Enquiry Centre](#). You can drop into them on the first floor of the Arts/Science Concourse from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. You can also email SEC@universityofgalway.ie.

10. Chaplaincy

[The Chaplaincy](#) is here to help students navigate the challenges associated with university life. Don't know who you need to speak to? That's where Chaplaincy comes in. They are available on campus for a chat from Monday - Friday and are here to listen.

11. Counselling

[Student Counselling](#) provides a free hybrid service of in-person and online one-to-one counselling. They also provide group counselling and workshops. Seeking counselling is normal here and is not a sign that you are unable to cope, but of strength and resourcefulness. Counselling support about 10% of the student population each year. Any problem, large or small, if unresolved, is welcomed here.

12. Examination and Assessment Process

Student examination and assessment in the University is governed by a set of [important policies and processes](#) which outline:

- a) the academic rules which all programmes and modules must comply with for the awarding of degrees and
- b) the way in which exams and assessment are conducted.

The University's degree structure and assessment process is aligned to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System to allow for recognition of awards across Europe.

Consequently, programmes are structured in multiples of 5 ECTs, with 60 ECTs making up a full year of undergraduate study and 90 ECTs for postgraduate study.

Degree classification is normally based on a student's results in pre-final (30%) and in final (70%) year and degree awards are classified from pass to first class honours. Results are approved by the University's College Exam Boards with independent validation of marks by External Examiners. College Boards, Academic Council and its sub-Committee, Academic Standing Committee are the key decision-making bodies in relation to student examination and assessment.

The School of Political Science and Sociology uses a categorical marking system across all programmes. These categorical marks are applied only at the level of assessed components (and NOT overall modular marks) to foster consistency across the programme and achieve a better distribution of marks across degree grades.

Fail: 0, 25, 35

Pass: 42, 45, 48

Lower Second: 52, 55, 58

Upper Second: 62, 65, 68

First: 72, 75, 78.

13. Extensions and Deferrals

If you are unable to submit your work on time, you must apply to the Module Coordinator or Seminar Leader for an extension no later than 24 hours in advance of an assessment deadline. If granted, the maximum extension will be no more than one week (7 calendar days). This requirement applies to all students, including those with a LENS (Learning Educational Needs Summary) report. If you have extenuating circumstances where more than 7 calendar days are required, the authorisation process depends on the weighting of the piece of assessment:

- Where the module assignments of course work constitutes less than 30% of the overall mark, this will be considered by the Module Coordinator or Seminar Leader in line with the [Extenuating Circumstances policy](#).
- Where the module assignments and coursework constitutes over 30% of the overall mark, you must apply 7 days in advance of the assessment deadline directly to the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies following the [Extenuating Circumstances policy](#) and completing the Extenuating Circumstances form. The extension request must be based upon a medical certificate and/or relevant supporting documentation.

14. Late submission without an extension

For module assignments and work constituting 20% or less of the overall mark: if you submit an assignment after the deadline without submitting an extension request and/or extension request approval, the work will be marked and a penalty will be applied.

- Late submissions will be penalised at a rate of 2 marks per day off the mark originally awarded. (E.g. if the essay merits a mark of 68, and was submitted one day late, the mark will go down to 66).
- No work is accepted or marked if submitted more than 7 working days after the deadline without an extension.

15. Feedback On Assignments

Feedback timeframe policy: normally, assignments will be marked within 3 weeks from the submission deadline.

Feedback from your lecturer/seminar leader is provided through [Canvas](#).

16. Parking Information

There are different types of spaces on campus, including spaces for staff permit holders only, student permit holders only, shared use (staff student permit holders), visitor/non-permit holder pay-and-display/Pay by Phone (P&D) spaces.

You need a permit to park in University of Galway, or you can buy a ticket from P&D machines or Pay by Phone. Please note, that P&D tickets only apply to spaces marked in blue adjacent to the meters - P&D tickets do not allow you to park anywhere else. Permit holders can use P&D spaces, but you must buy a ticket.

Your permit/P&D ticket allows you to park in specific places and you must familiarise yourself with the zones, and which permit applies to what carpark. There are also 'reserved' spaces and loading bays - do not park in these.

You may use the universally accessible parking spaces if you display a valid and registered 'blue badge' permit issued by the IWA.

Student parking permits are available through an online system for registered students. Allow plenty of time on your first visit to campus with your car.

17. Class Representatives

The Class Rep is the Voice of your Class and represents the views of the majority of the class. They help to solve both individual and class-wide problems. If you decide to run for Class Rep, your responsibilities will include communicating between your class and the course lecturers, attending Comhairle Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn and your College Council meetings to help formulate Student Union policies and arranging class parties, hoodies etc.

18. Student Complaints Process

The purpose of the Student Complaints Procedure is to provide a formal mechanism for students to have their complaints heard and resolved. The Procedure is not intended to be a disciplinary one, However, the Complaints Procedure provides students with an opportunity to raise issues of concern to them, frequently makes recommendations for improvements to University processes and, where appropriate, can provide redress to students.

It is intended that this complaints procedure will allow for matters to be dealt with fairly, transparently and in a timely fashion, for the benefit of current and future students and the wider University Community.

Programme Structure: Year 1

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Core/Optional
LW3160	Introduction to Law	5	1	Core
LW126	Legal Skills	5	2	Core
LW3109	Tort Law	10	1 and 2	Core
SP1125	Introduction to Politics	5	1	Core
SP1124	Introduction to Government	5	2	Core
SP1127	Practicing Government	5	2	Core
SP1120	Practicing Politics	5	1	Core
EC135	Principles of Microeconomics	5	1	Core
EC1108	Skills for Economics I	5	1	Core
EC136	Principles of Macroeconomics	5	2	Core
EC1109	Skills for Economics II	5	2	Core

The module outlines, as well as any relevant course information, will be made available on Canvas and during the lectures.

CÉIM

First year students: Take part in CÉIM! Weekly CÉIM peer learning sessions are student led and are about working collaboratively in small groups to develop independent learning skills, discuss new topics on the course, prepare for upcoming assignments and exams, and have some fun! Initiated by University of Galway Students' Union in 2013, CÉIM is run as a partnership between students, academic staff and the Students' Union.

CÉIM supports 1st year students to transition successfully to University of Galway, make friends and create connections within their subject area, develop a sense of belonging, gain a greater understanding of coursework and ultimately proceed to 2nd year. [Learn more and find out how to take part](#)

Programme Structure: Year 2

Choosing a Major

For the most part, the second year of the course is structured in the same way as the first year, so the information included in the handbook still applies. The main difference is that in the second year, you will be required to select one of the three core subjects – politics, economics, or law – to *major* in. This means you will be taking a larger number of modules in that field in order to specialize in its particular concepts, methods, and areas of expertise. The other two core subjects will be your *minors*, and you will still continue to take a number of modules in these fields.

You must take modules adding up to 30 ECTS for your major, and 15 ECTS for each of your minors. (60 ECTS in total for the academic year.)

Second Year Modules: Politics

Those *majoring* in Politics (SP2030) take six core modules (no optional modules). You take 15 ECTS per semester, 30 ECTS in total.

Those *minoring* in Politics (SP2015). Take one core module and choose two from the four optional modules. You take 15 ECTS in total.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
SP2117	International and Global Politics	5	1	Core	Optional
SP2122	European Politics	5	1	Core	Optional
SPSK3101	Politics and Society: Themes and Topics	5	1	Core	-----
SP2123	Modern Political Thought	5	2	Core	Optional
SP220	Methods for Social and Political Science	5	2	Core	Optional
SP2124	Introduction to Policymaking	5	2	Core	Core

Second Year Modules: Law

Those *majoring* in Law take five core modules, and one of the three optional modules. You take 30 ECTS in total.

Those *minoring* in Law take two core modules and choose one of the two optional modules. You take 15 ECTS in total.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
LW227	Constitutional Law I	5	1	Core	Core
LW228	Constitutional Law II	5	2	Core	Core
LW202	Contract Law I	5	1	Core	--
LW205	Contract Law II	5	2	Core	--
LW3161	Advanced Legal Skills	5	2	Core	--
LW3158	Animal Law	5	1	Optional	Optional
LW357	Environmental Law	5	1	Optional	Optional
LW415	Law of the Sea	5	1	Optional	Optional
LW383	Information Technology Law	5	1	Optional	--

Second Year Modules: Economics

Those *majoring* in Economics take four core modules, and two of the three optional modules. You take **30 ECTS** in total.

Those *minoring* in Economics take three core modules (no optionals). You take **15 ECTS** in total.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
EC207	Irish Economic History	5	1	Optional *	
EC247	Introduction to Financial Economics	5	2	Optional *	
EC259	Economics of Public Policy	5	2	Optional *	Core
EC268	Intermediate Macroeconomics	5	2	Core	Core
EC269	Intermediate Microeconomics	5	1	Core	Core
EC273	Mathematics for Economics	5	1	Core	
EC275	Statistics for Economics	5	2	Core	

* All optional modules are subject to change

Programme Structure: Year 3

Semester 1

All third year BA Government students must register for the two core modules for Semester 1 and choose three of the optional modules – in total 30 ECTS.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Core/Optional
SP3203	Professional Skills for Government and Policy	10	1	Core
SP3204:	Policymaking, Lobbying and Advocacy	5	1	Core
BSS2103	Introduction to Sustainability 1 (Aspire)	5	1	Optional
SP3206	Government Field Trip	5	1	Optional
SP3119	Green Political Thought	5	1	Optional
PS3109	Vertically Integrated Projects	5	1	Optional
PS3108	Design Thinking	5	1	Optional

Semester 2

- **Option 1:** SP3210: Work Placement for Government and Policy (30 ECTS) *Subject to availability*
- **Option 2:** SP3216: Study Abroad: Government and Policy Studies (30 ECTS) *Subject to availability*
- **Option 3:** Choose 6 of the following 5 ECTS modules*

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester
SP3137	Youth and Society	5	2
MG3115	Megatrends	5	2
SP3103	European Union: Political Theory and Political Economy	5	2
SP3150	Teaching Methods for the Politics and Society Classroom	5	2
SP721	Ocean and Marine Politics	5	2
SP4131	Smart and Liveable Cities and Suburbs	5	2
SP3214	Biosociality and Bioeconomy: The Value(s) of Living Things	5	2
SP3215	Security and World Affairs: People, Planet, Places	5	2
SP3213	Contemporary African Politics	5	2
SP3211	Empathy in Action	5	2

* Note: Most of these modules will also be available in fourth year when students may choose optional modules. An option completed in third year cannot be taken again in fourth year.

Programme Structure: Year 4

Take modules adding up to 30 ECTS for your major, and 15 ECTS for each of your minors.

Fourth Year Modules: Law

Those majoring in law take six modules (3 in each semester). Those minoring in Law take two modules in Semester 1 and one module in Semester 2. (There are no optional modules.)

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
LW409	Criminal Law I	5	1	Core	
LW4103	Administrative Law I	5	1	Core	Core
LW503	European Union Law I	5	1	Core	Core
LW413	Criminal Law 2	5	2	Core	
LW4104	Administrative Law 2	5	2	Core	
LW504	European Law 2	5	2	Core	Core

Fourth Year Modules: Politics

Those majoring in Politics take two core modules and four optional modules. Those minoring in Politics, select two core modules and one optional module.

Note: You must not register again for an optional module that you have already taken in year 3.

Module Code	Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
SP3207	Public Policy & Government	5	1	Core	Core
SP3139	Comparative Government and Politics	5	2	Core	Core
SP219	Political Sociology	5	1	Optional	Optional
SP3208	Contemporary American Politics	5	1	Optional	Optional
SP3214	Biosociality and Bioeconomy: The Value(s) of Living Things	5	2	Optional	Optional
SP3103	European Union: Political Theory and Political Economy	5	2	Optional	Optional
SP4131	Smart and Liveable Cities and Suburbs	5	2	Optional	Optional
SP3213	Contemporary African Politics	5	2	Optional	Optional
SP3215	Security & World Affairs: People, Planet, Places	5	2	Optional	Optional

SP3150	Teaching Methods for the Politics and Society Classroom	5	2	Optional	Optional
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Fourth Year Modules: Economics

Those majoring in economics take the two core modules and four optional modules. Those minoring in economics, take the two core modules and one optional module.

Module Code	Module Title	ECTS	Semester	Major	Minor
EC3101	Microeconomics and Public Policy	5	1	Core	Core
EC345	Health Economics	5	1	Optional	Optional
EC369	Money and Banking	5	1	Optional	Optional
EC388	Environmental and Natural Resources Economics	5	1	Optional	Optional
EC3105	Econometrics		1	Optional	Optional
EC3102	Macroeconomics and Public Policy	5	1	Core	Core
EC362	Economics of Financial Markets	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC386	Public Economics	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC429	Marine Economics	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC3106	Behavioural Finance	5	2	Optional	Optional
EC3100	Economics and Philosophy	5	2	Optional	Optional

Contact Details

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