

SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY

SECOND YEAR SEMINAR GUIDE

Semester I 2017-18

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The compulsory lecture modules for Semester I are:

SP212 Classical Social Thought

Niamh Reilly

Tuesday 12.00 (AM250) Wednesday 12.00 (AM250)

SP216 European Politics

Brendan Flynn

Monday 12.00 (O'Flaherty) Monday 2.00 (O'Flaherty)

The two electives (from which you have chosen one) are:

SP226 Comparative Themes in Society, Politics and Culture

Kathy Powell

Tuesday 2.00 (AM250) Friday 12.00 (IT 125 Ground Floor)

SP234 International Relations

Eilis Ward

Tuesday 2.00 (D'Arcy Thompson) Friday 12.00 (AM150).

Each module is supported by **WEEKLY SEMINARS – all of which you attend.**

This guide tells you all you need to know about those seminars.

Each module is assessed by exam (70%) and by work in the seminars: 20% from essay work and 10% from your participation. THUS 30% OF YOUR OVERALL MARK IN EACH MODULE IS BASED UPON SEMINAR WORK. You will write three 1500 word essays each semester (one for each module). Each week, the seminars discuss the essay topic and relevant reading - two from each of the modules. You choose one for your essay and hand it in at your seminar by the dates given below. Feedback is given by your seminar leader.

You are expected to prepare for your participation in the seminars by reading the material each week **in advance**. This material is collated into a Reading Pack, which will be made available by your seminar leader or from the School's Secretariat.

Seminars begin Week Commencing September 25th to Week Ending November 24th.

General Seminar Course work - Essay Requirements Checklist:

- You must submit one 1500 word essay for each of the modules in which you are enrolled. (Two Core modules and one elective)
- This means that you submit **THREE** essays in total in each semester.
- **Do not** submit an essay for an elective module you are not enrolled in.
- **Do not** submit more than one essay for each of your three modules.
- You therefore have to submit three essays in total per semester on the following dates: Essay I - week beginning October 16th ; Essay II – week beginning October 30th ; Essay III – week beginning November 20th .
- The time and day of your weekly seminar determines your exact essay submission date.
- Essay submission checklist:
 1. Essay hard copy (including bibliography): **You must submit a hard copy of each essay to your seminar tutor (as well as uploading it through Turnitin): otherwise your essay will NOT be marked.**
 2. Full Turnitin Report in PDF format
 3. Essay entry form (at the back of this guide)
- Essays will be penalized if they are more than - or less than - 10% of the word limit of 1500 words (excluding references and bibliography). Thus your essay must be within a 1350-1650 word range.
- **(Second Year REPEAT students who did not submit seminar essays during the academic year and who have failed Semester I and Semester II modules cannot submit Continuous Assessment work as part of their Second Examination Sitting. Their repeat performance shall thus be assessed entirely by written examination. Therefore, only students with Deferrals may submit essays for the second examination sitting.)**

Week Beginning September 25th

Introduction to essay-writing and to the seminars.

Week Beginning October 2nd

Reading for SP 212 (Classical Social Thought):

Karl Marx, 'Wage Labour and Capital' (extract) in Robert C. Tucker (ed.) *The Marx-Engels Reader* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2nd edition, 1978), pp. 203-217.

Essay question:

What is Marx's concept of 'wage labour' and the relationship of the worker to the capitalist, as he describes it in 'Wage Labour and Capital'?

Discussion:

Marx first presented his ideas on 'Wage Labour and Capital' in 1847 – 170 years ago. In your essay discuss at least three aspects of the experience of wage labour as Marx understood it. Reflect on the continued relevance, or not, of his ideas about wage labour today. Use and refer to at least one other relevant reading from the SP212 outline to help compose your essay (e.g., Morrison, Giddens, Craib).

Week Beginning October 9th

Reading for SP216 (European Politics):

Fouskas, Vassilis (2013) 'Whatever Happened to Greece?', *The Political Quarterly*, Vol.84, No.1, pp.132-138.

Essay Question:

Explain and discuss the main features of Fouskas's argument for why Greece ended up in crisis. In your answer highlight in what ways his perspective offers us a different view from what we see/hear in the mainstream media about Greece. Also briefly consider whether his argument is convincing.

Discussion:

Consider the essay question but also discuss what implications follow from the analysis of Fouskas, both for Greece and the wider EU itself? Is his account really that different from the conventional explanation of Greece's woes? Do you see any similarities or differences between Ireland's experience and that of Greece, given it is often suggested 'Ireland is not Greece'? What does he mean by a 'comprador economy' (page 135)? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the piece? Does he let Greek voters off the hook while skewering Greek elites?

Week Beginning October 16th **DEADLINE FOR FIRST ESSAY**

Reading for SP 234 (International Relations)

Andrew Heywood, (2011), 'The State and Foreign Policy in a Global Age' in Heywood, Andrew, *Global Politics*, Houndsmills: Palgrave: 111-124.

Essay Question and discussion topic:

In what way, according to Heywood, has the state changed as a result of globalisation?

Week Beginning October 23rd

Reading for SP226 (Comparative Themes)

Breman, Jan (2009), "Myth of the Global Safety Net", in *New Left Review* No.59, 29-36.

Essay Question and discussion topic:

Outline Breman's argument against viewing the informal sector as a 'global safety net'. What are the implications of that 'myth' for poor communities?

You should also refer to at least one other source in your essay. The obvious one is González de la Rocha (2006) 'Vanishing Assets: Cumulative Disadvantages Among the Urban Poor' (see reading list in course booklet and lecture notes).

Week Beginning October 30th **DEADLINE FOR SECOND ESSAY** (*Monday's class will be conjoined with the following week's seminar: however, Essay II must be submitted to your tutor on or before Thursday November 2nd*)

Reading SP 212 (Classical Social Thought)

Émile Durkheim, 'What Is a Social Fact?,' from *Durkheim, The Rules of Sociological Method and Selected Texts on Sociology and Its Method*, ed. Steven Lukes (London: Macmillan, 1982), pp. 50-59.

Essay Question:

Describe and critically discuss Émile Durkheim's account of 'social facts' and his understanding of the nature and operation of coercive power in social life.

Discussion:

Durkheim argued that 'social facts' had 'very special characteristics' and required study in their own right. He writes, 'social facts' consist of collective 'manners of acting, thinking and feeling external to the individual, which are vested with a coercive power by virtue of which they exercise control over him [or her]', for example, legal rules, moral obligations and social conventions. In your essay summarise and discuss the main arguments that Durkheim puts forward about the existence of 'social facts' and some of the examples he uses to illustrate his arguments. Briefly reflect on the relevance of his ideas today regarding coercion and constraint in social life. Use and refer to at least one other relevant reading from the SP212 module outline to help compose your essay (e.g., Morrison, Giddens, Craib).

Week beginning November 6th

Reading for SP 216 (European Politics)

Kaldor, Mary and Sabine Selchow (2013) 'The Bubbling Up' of Subterranean Politics in Europe', *Journal of Civil Society*, Vol.9, No.1, pp.78-99.

Essay Question: Critically evaluate Kaldor and Selchow's argument about what they call a '*new political phenomenon termed Subterranean Politics*'. In your answer reflect on how the authors did their study, or what was unusual about their methods. Above all comment on their core findings and the implications of this research for politics in European states.

Discussion: What might be strengths and weaknesses regarding their methods? Did any findings surprise you? If so, explain which and why? Do you think Ireland has a subterranean politics bubbling up? If not, why not? Consider to what extent the authors may be making exaggerated claims for their approach, and to what extent have they captured merely a passing political mood and not a lasting social phenomenon of more generalized significance.

Week Beginning November 13th

Reading for SP 234 (International Relations)

MacFarlane, Neil, Thielking, Carolin & Weiss, Thomas, (2004). 'The Responsibility to Protect: is anyone interested in humanitarian intervention?' in *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 5: 977-992.

Essay Question and discussion topic:

What, according to MacFarlane *et al.*, is required to rescue the idea of humanitarian intervention as part of the UN's role in protecting civilians and promoting human rights?

Week Beginning November 20th **DEADLINE FOR THIRD/FINAL ESSAY**

Reading for SP226 (Comparative Themes)

Leeds, Elizabeth, (2007) 'Rio De Janeiro', in Koonings, Kees and Kruijt, Dirk, (eds.), *Fractured Cities: Social Exclusion, Urban Violence and Contested Spaces in Latin America*, London, New York: Zed Books: 23-36.

Essay Question and discussion topic:

What, according to Leeds, are the processes which have driven the deepening of poverty and exclusion in Latin America, and in what ways do poverty and social exclusion contribute to urban violence and insecurity?

You should also refer to at least one other source in your essay (see readings in course booklet).

ESSAY GUIDELINES

The study of political science and sociology is based on a critical assessment of evidence, arguments, different positions; identifying gaps, insights and weaknesses and bringing critical thought to bear. The following five points should help.

- 1. Begin each essay by carefully assessing exactly what you are being asked to do in the question posed.** Questions **never** require a 'write all you know' response.
- 2. Plan your essay in advance.** Think about how to begin, what the body of your essay will say and how to end. It's often a good idea to **say what you're going to do, do it**, and, in your conclusion, **say what you've done**. Think about the **conflicting arguments**. What assumptions are they based on? What values do they embody? What evidence illustrates any argument? What readings do you need to bring to bear?
- 3. Ensure clear presentation.** Organise your essay in a logical way that is obvious, e.g. use sub-headings. Argue **coherently**. Correct punctuation and spelling matter.
- 4. Your conclusion is important.** In it you bring the entire essay together and make points based on its content. You can re-phrase your support for a particular position, a combination of positions, or none. Show that you have answered the question.
- 5. All essays must be fully referenced and include a bibliography** (see below)

Essay delivery: *all essays must be submitted in the first instance via TURNITIN* (Full details of how to do this will be posted to you via e-mail later). Please also bring a **Turnitin print-off** of your essay to your seminar leader in class on the submission date with your signed essay entry form. Extensions need the permission of the Second-Year Tutor, otherwise a 2% reduction per day late (up to a limit of 5 days) will apply. Please ensure to keep an electronic copy of your essay for your own records etc.. Please do **not** submit your essay in plastic covers.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism (the presentation of someone else's work as your own) is theft and fraud, is completely contrary to academic standards and is penalised. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing text very closely, cobbling together a text from numerous sources taken in whole or in part and presenting ideas from other authors without a citation. As your essay derives largely from other sources you will be citing them throughout (see below).

Internet sources are traceable by staff members who will notice when they are being used and we also use an electronic system for tracing plagiarised material. If you have problems, **don't copy**: ask your tutor for help.

You must ensure that your work has **every source clearly marked and referenced**. Essays must be accompanied by **signed forms** confirming that the work is your own.

CITATION/REFERENCING The School uses the **Harvard** system. This contains two components: A) an in-text citation and B) a bibliography.

A. IN-TEXT CITATION: you acknowledge the author in the text by giving his or her **name**, the **year of the publication**, and the **page(s) in question**.

Here is an example:

“Populations who seem to share broad cultural attitudes towards the environment can actually act very disparately under different political circumstances (Rootes 1997: 14)”.

If you quote less than a line and a half, include in the sentence otherwise, indent.

B. BIBLIOGRAPHY: every in-text citation has a matching full reference in the alphabeticised bibliography. This includes the author’s or authors’ name(s), the date, title, place of publication and publisher of the work. If the work is an article or chapter, you give the name of the journal, or the name of the collection and editors’ names.

If an author has written more than one item in a single year and you are citing these, differentiate them as ‘2001a’, ‘2001b’ and so on.

Titles of articles should be in single inverted commas. Names of books or journals should be in italics. Do not cite titles of book/articles in your essay. You **must** also cite any websites or other **online sources** you have used (see below)

Sample Bibliography

Chapter in a book:

Kiras, James, (2005) ‘Terrorism and Globalisation’ in John Baylis and Steve Smith (eds.) *The Globalisation of World Politics*, Oxford: OUP: 479-498.

Journal article:

John, I.D. (1992) ‘Statistics as rhetoric in psychology’, *Australian Psychologist* 27: 44-9.

Book (A):

Kennedy, George A., (1998) *Comparative Rhetoric: An Historical and Cross-Cultural Introduction*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Book (B):

Locke, John, (1690/1979) *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Internet reference:

Murrain, P., (1968) *Medieval Social Structures and the Crisis of European Tolerance* [Internet]. Oxford, Oxford University Press. Available from: netLibrary <<http://www.netLibrary.com/urlapi.asp?action=summary&v=1&bookid=22981>> [Accessed 6 March 2006].

Newspaper article:

Cumming, F. (1999). ‘Tax-Free Savings Push’, *Sunday Mail*, 4 April, p. 1.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ESSAYS/DEADLINES -

1. Where under particular circumstances an Extension is sought, you must first contact the 2 BA Coordinator (socpol2ba@nuigalway.ie) **in advance of the deadline**. Essay Extensions may be sought in **very exceptional circumstances only** (valid and certified personal, family grounds or serious medical illness at the time of submission).
2. If handed in late, essays must be accompanied by an email to this effect or a signed acceptance from the seminar leader, which you keep as a record.
3. If an essay is submitted late without a valid medical certificate and essay deadline Extension, it shall incur a **Late Submission Penalty** of 2% off the essay mark per day late up to and including 5 days late. Work submitted more than 5 days late (without a valid Extension) will not be accepted.
4. Where relevant, deadlines will be set for second sitting submission of written components for each module and notified through Blackboard. **No extensions will be provided beyond these deadlines**. Students are responsible for meeting these deadlines following this notification.
5. No written work will be accepted **under any circumstances** beyond these dates for the second sitting submission. This is the official policy of the School.



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

Essay Entry Form

- Semester I -

(2BA Political Science and Sociology, Academic Year 2017/18)

Essay submission: hand in a hard copy of your Essay to your Seminar Leader **at the due date for each essay**. Also **electronically submit via TURNITIN**

This form MUST be signed by the essay entrant and must accompany each essay as a cover page. We cannot under any circumstances accept essays without this form attached.

ESSAYS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR MARKING UNTIL AN ENTRY FORM IS SIGNED AND SUBMITTED.

Name: _____

ID number: _____

Module Code (e.g. SP 212): _____

Title of the Module: _____

Essay title: _____

Number of pages: _____

Bibliography attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I hereby certify that I understand what plagiarism is and that this essay is entirely my own work. Neither the paper in its entirety nor parts thereof have been published elsewhere in either paper or electronic form unless indicated through referencing. I understand that this work may be entered on a database to enable detection of similarities and I give my consent to this.

Signature

Date



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Name: _____

ID number: _____

Module Code (e.g. SP216.I): _____

Title of the Module: _____

Essay title: _____

Number of pages: _____

Bibliography attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Signature

Date