



Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences)¹

Second Year Student Handbook
Academic Year 2023 – 2024

Programme Code: GY123



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

¹ Short form BASS.

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N.B.

Please consult the second-year student handbooks for both Sociology & Political Science and Geography for full and comprehensive details of these respective modules and subjects.

General Programme Information

Programme Outline: The BASS programme is a modular degree, combining core and elective modules relating to social scientific research and study, as well as modules that are strongly focussed on enhancing students' contemporary skills and employability. Students will be given a broad understanding of the Social Sciences in years one and two, undertake career development and an internship with an NGO or SME in year three, and choose a specific study pathway in year four that is most suited to their planned career or further education pathway. The Academic Regulations Committee and Academic Standing confirm that **the final grade for all BASS graduates will be based on 30% Second Year results and 70% of final year results.**

Progression to Year Three: Students should note that this is a pass-by-module programme and students are, therefore, required to pass all programme modules to progress to Year Three.

Our Vision for the Programme: This programme has a contemporary focus on equipping students with relevant skills in the Social Sciences to advance their preferred career choice, or to avail of further educational opportunities at the Masters and Doctoral levels. Students will engage with and seek to address present-day critical social, environmental and economic issues with creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in a cooperative and supportive learning environment.

Student Representative: Students are encouraged to have a collective voice in the ongoing design and running of the Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences) programme. The student representative(s) is a point person to convey student issues and concerns directly to the Programme Year Coordinator and/or Programme Team.

Programme Announcements and Information Forums: Canvas is an e-facility to check on programme and module announcements, and staff information, download readings and lecture notes, upload all assessments, and obtain marks and grades. THIS IS THE MAIN MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PROGRAMME COORDINATOR AND DIRECTORS, AND ALL TEACHING STAFF, WITH ALL SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS. YOU MUST ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE CANVAS SYSTEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT THE BEGINNING OF SEMESTER ONE.

Email Policy: Please only use your student email account for communicating with all Schools, Disciplines and programme personnel. Mail from all other e-mail addresses will not, normally, receive a response.

Students are expected to regularly check their student e-mail account for all announcements and notices. You should also regularly check your 'junk mail' folder.

Students should also demonstrate courtesy and respect at all times when communicating through their e-mail accounts. Please remember that you are in an academic environment and should address members of staff by their appropriate titles in all communications. Furthermore, when using your [@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:universityofgalway.ie) e-mail account for any correspondence outside the university environment be mindful that you are representing the programme, the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, and the University of Galway and always communicate courteously and thoughtfully, which reflects well on yourself and the university.

Communicating with Academic Staff: For all communications with academic staff, please make sure to consult all materials on School and Departmental webpages and Canvas before e-mailing additional questions you may have. Also, please make sure to e-mail in advance to arrange any meeting with staff members outside of their stated consultation/office hours. When writing an e-mail to staff it is important to be courteous, professional, and concise. For example, you should make sure that your opening address conveys a professional tone; e.g. Dear Dr Hynes, etc. If your query is directed at teaching staff, please ensure that your e-mail also includes a subject line, your name, student ID and the name/code of the class in which you are participating. Please be aware that due to the large number of e-mails received by academic staff daily, you must allow adequate time for them to respond. Finally, please check your student e-mail account regularly as this is the main way that university and administration staff will contact you.

Student Welfare: We recognise that students may, at times, have particular difficulties that impact their capacity to complete their studies to the best of their ability. Every effort will be made to accommodate individual circumstances, and we would encourage you in this regard to communicate your situation to us if you feel we can be of assistance. You should also be aware of the wide range of student support services available to you on campus, whose role is also to help students fulfil their potential both academically and personally. Details on these student services are available at the following link: www.universityofgalway.ie/student_services.

Student Attendance at Lecturers, Tutorials and Seminars: STUDENT ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY AT ALL SCHEDULED LECTURES, TUTORIALS AND SEMINARS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION. This is a full-time degree programme and students must view their studies as a full-time commitment and perform to the best of their ability at all times. Please notify your lecturer or tutor and the second-year programme coordinator of any expected absences in advance, or as soon as possible on your return to your studies.

Student Absences: If your absence from lectures or programme activities is due to illness, a medical certificate must be submitted to Ms Catherine McCurry, College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, via the online portal. If your absence relates to other circumstances, **it is your responsibility to also communicate this in a timely way with your module co-ordinator, and/or with the relevant year co-ordinator or Dr Rachel McArdle, Second Year Programme Coordinator.** If you are experiencing difficulties in keeping up with coursework during the year for whatever reason you are strongly advised to let us know about this while there is time to offer constructive advice and assistance. If we are not aware of issues until near the end of a module it is usually very difficult to provide real and practical support and help. You will find that we are very approachable and willing to be accommodating and in making your situation known to us we will regard you as having acted maturely and responsibly. It is our fervent wish to see you perform to the best of your ability and enjoy the entire four-year programme of study.

Student Code of Conduct: AS A STUDENT, YOU ALSO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO YOUR CONDUCT ON AND OFF CAMPUS. The University has outlined a comprehensive explanatory statement in this regard, which we would urge you to read and familiarise yourself with. Once you accept a place as a student at the University of Galway you are automatically bound by its code of conduct (see www.universityofgalway.ie/codeofconduct).

Work Placements: During the academic year, the BASS Programme Team will begin discussing the 3rd year placement semester with all second-year students. We would encourage you to begin thinking about possible placement opportunities and interests you may wish to pursue as early as possible. In addition, we would ask that you consider whether you wish to conduct your placement in Ireland or abroad. If you wish to conduct your placement in Europe we recommend that you participate in any training or events offered by the Erasmus office in 2022/2023. The second Year Coordinator will bring these to your attention as they arise during the year.

Some Brief Information on the Placements: Students will pursue a placement for 5 months, from January until the end of May of the 3rd Year of the BASS Programme. Students must be available **32 hours per week** for the duration of the placement.

Contribution of Work Placement to Final Degree Classification: All placements must be passed to be awarded the degree BSc (Social Sciences) at the University of Galway. Placements will be graded on a pass-fail basis. A placement will bear 30 ECTS credits.

1. As such, if a student passes the placement the result will not affect final degree classification.
2. If a student fails their placement, they cannot progress to year four of the degree programme.

* Further information will be supplied during the year, and when you commence your third year of study.

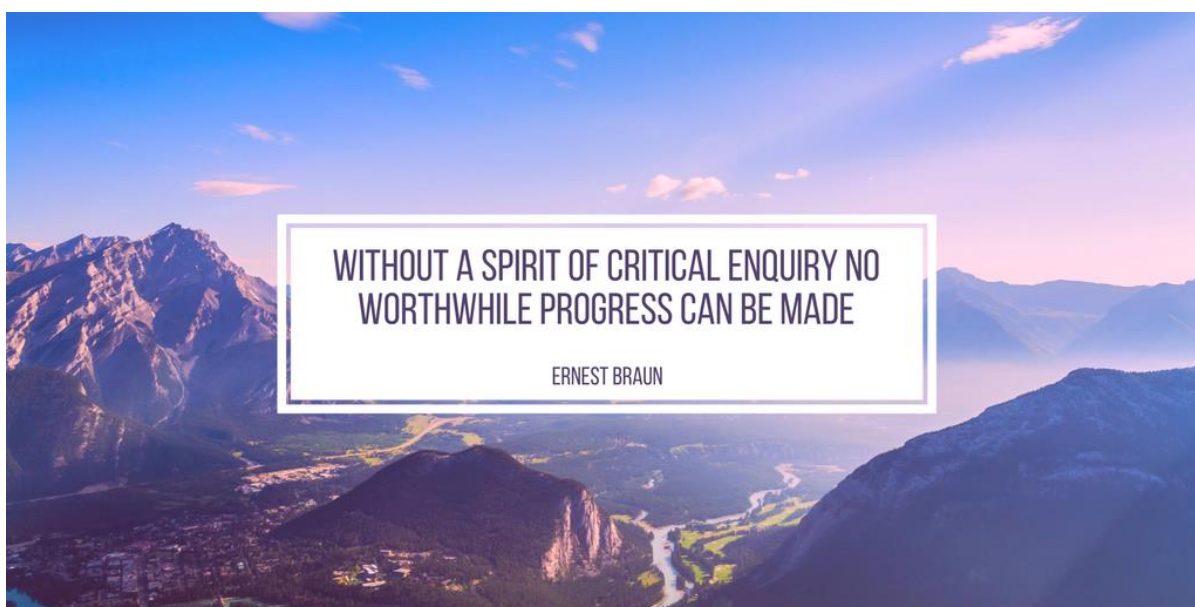
Key Programme Personnel

First-Year Programme Coordinator: Dr Mike Hynes
Room 323, 2nd Floor, Áras Moyola
School of Political Science & Sociology
University of Galway
Email address: mike.hynes@universityofgalway.ie
Phone: +353 91 49 5104
Office Hours: Tuesday 3pm to 4pm
Wednesday 3pm to 4pm (or by appointment)

Second-Year Programme Coordinator: Dr Rachel McArdle
Discipline of Geography
Arts Science Concourse
University of Galway
Email address: rachel.mcardle@universityofgalway.ie
Office Hours: Wednesday 3pm to 4pm (or by appointment)

Geography Administrator: Ms Christina Costello
Room 101, Geography
E-mail: christina.costello@universityofgalway.ie
Telephone: +353 (0)91 49 5908

Sociology and Political Science Administrator: Ms Stephanie Quinn
Room 308, 2nd Floor
School of Political Science & Sociology
Áras Moyola
Email: stephanie.quinn@universityofgalway.ie
Telephone: +353 (0)91 49 2290



Second-Year Academic Calendar 2023 - 2024

Semester One (2023)

Start of Teaching for First Years	Monday 4 th Sept 2023
Reading Week	Monday 9 th Oct 2023 – Friday 13 th Oct 2023
End of Teaching for First Years	Friday 24 th Nov 2023
Study Week	Monday 27 th Nov until Friday 1 st Dec 2023
Semester One Exams Start	Monday 4 th Dec 2023
Semester One Exams Finish	Friday 15 th Dec 2023
Christmas Holidays	Saturday 16 th Dec 2023

Semester Two (2024)

Start of Teaching All Years	Monday 8 th Jan 2024
Reading Week	Monday 12 th Feb 2024 – Friday 16 th Feb 2024
End of Teaching All Years	Friday 29 th March 2024
Easter	Good Friday 29 th Mar 2024 Easter Monday 1 st April 2024
Study Week	Tuesday 8 th April until Friday 12 th April 2024
Semester Two Exams Start	Monday 15 th April 2024
Semester two Exams Finish	Wednesday 1 st May 2024
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 6 th Aug 2024 until Friday 16 th Aug 2024

Holidays

Easter: Good Friday 29th March 2024 - Easter Monday 1st April 2024.

Bank Holidays: Monday 30th Oct 2023; Monday 18th March 2024 (St Patrick's Day Holiday); Monday 6th May 2023; Monday 3rd June 2024; Monday 5th Aug 2024.

Year Two BASS Modules

BSS2103 - Introduction to Sustainability



Semester	One
Times	Tuesday 9am to 10:50am
Room	Alice Perry Building ENG-G047
Course Leader	Dr Gesche Kindermann
E-mail	gesche.kindermann@universityofgalway.ie
Phone	Ext. 3862
Office Hours	By appointment.

Module Description

Sustainability is one of the core values of the University of Galway and we adopt a Learn-Live-Lead approach to sustainability. This module - Introduction to Sustainability - is future-oriented and explores the concept of sustainability in the face of global change. It encompasses a wide range of theory and practice, including social, economic and environmental issues, and links international examples to local context and relevance. Students will be encouraged and supported to engage critically with the concept of sustainable development and to critically unpack the meaning of the global goals from a social science perspective. Guest lecturers who are experts in various aspects of sustainability and critical social science will complement this approach. Critical inquiry, discovery, reading, writing and discussion in the social sciences will be a central focus.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

- Define and explain key aspects of sustainability
- Critically assess existing evidence in relation to how sustainability can best be promoted, in particular in the face of global change and uncertainty
- Evaluate approaches employed to lead on environmental issues and the impacts they have
- Apply and appraise sustainable approaches that are used to help reduce environmental pressures and promote sustainability
- Recommend appropriate practices to create a sustainable environment.

The course is designed to encourage learning through attendance at lectures, class discussions, and 'learning by doing' through the use of applied case studies and group work. Wide and critical reading is encouraged.

Indicative Content

NOTE: Syllabus subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

Key Course Themes

- Introduction to Sustainability
- Climate Change and the Anthropocene
- History of Globalisation
- Biodiversity and Sustainability
- The Built Environment and Sustainability
- Economic & Organisational Sustainability
- Circular Economy
- Personal & Environmental Resilience
- Sustainable Consumption
- Healthy Sustainable Futures
- Sustainability and Global Perspectives
- Building a Sustainable Society.

The week-to-week outline will be distributed in week one.

Key Reading Material

Many other readings will be selected to support each block of lectures. This will be advised in class. Many of these readings will be uploaded to Canvas.

- Jacques (2014). *Sustainability: The Basics*. Routledge US [ISBN: 978-04156084]
- Monbiot (2018). *Out of the wreckage: A new politics for an age of crisis*. Verso UK [ISBN: 978-178663289]
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- University of Galway Sustainability Strategy.

Assessment

The course will be assessed by 100% continuous assessment; details communicated in week one. **Credit Weighting: 5 ECTS**

BSS2101 - Cooperative Learning and Group Research Methods



Semester	Two
Times	Tuesday 2pm to 3:50pm
Room	AC201 Main Concourse
Course Leader	Dr Rachel McArdle
E-mail	rachel.mcardle@universityofgalway.ie
Phone	TBC
Office Hours	By appointment.

Module Description

The primary aims of the fieldtrip module are:

- To introduce students to the economic, political, social and cultural nuances of Barcelona
- To support individual and group study and learning by providing an active environment and a variety of exercises
- To encourage effective communication, group work, critical thinking, reflection, and practical research skills in a field-based context
- To examine key features of field-based and cooperative learning and its applicability in the social sciences
- To utilise an applied learning approach to link theoretical principles to real-world contexts and assist in the creation of applied social scientists
- To consider the four BASS streams in an applied field-based setting
- To consider critically the role of cooperative and group learning in the applied social sciences.

Learning Outcomes

The course has the following main objectives:

- To examine key features of cooperative learning and its applicability in the social sciences
- To employ a series of well-recognised research methods in an international field class, To utilise an applied learning approach to link theoretical principles to real-world contexts and assist in the creation of applied social scientists
- To consider critically the role of cooperative and group learning in the applied social sciences
- To support individual study and research by providing an active environment for a critical field-based learning environment
- To consider the four BASS streams in an applied field-based setting
- To enable students to develop and apply a range of practical research skills in field-based contexts
- To encourage critical thinking and effective teamwork for the duration of the field exercise.

Indicative Content

Lecture outline (subject to change):

Theme 1: Environment

Theme 2: Culture and creativity

Theme 3: Politics, society, and identity

Theme 4: Communities, engagement, and development.

Field trip scheduled for the week beginning Sunday 2nd April 2023.

Module Assessment

All students are expected to actively participate in all preparation seminars and all activities before, during, and after the fieldtrip.

100% Continuous Assessment

- Pre-fieldtrip reading reflections: 30%
- Involvement in group fieldtrip activities: 30%
- Post-fieldtrip reflective journal: 40%

Key Reading Material

- Hughes, R. (2001). *Barcelona*, 2nd Edition. London: Harvill
- Marshall T. (2004) (Ed.), *Transforming Barcelona*, London: Routledge
- Raeburn M. (1985) (Ed.) *Homage to Barcelona*, London: Arts Council of Great Britain.

Many other key readings will be selected to support each block of lectures. This will be advised in class. Many of these readings will be uploaded to Canvas.

How Second-Year Sociology & Political Science Works

In semester one students must choose TWO options(subjects): one semi-core module from Option 1 and one semi-core from Option 2

(Option 1):

SP216.I European Politics

Dr Brendan Flynn

Monday 12:00 (O Flaherty Theatre); Monday 14:00 (O Flaherty Theatre)

OR

SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses

Dr Brian McGrath and Colleagues

Tuesday 12.00 (Colm O'hEocha AM250); Wednesday 12.00 (Colm O'hEocha AM250)

(Option 2):

SP2116 Sociology of Health

Dr Vesna Malesevic and Colleagues

Tuesday 14.00 (Colm O'hEocha AM250); Friday 12.00 (O Flaherty Theatre)

OR

SP2117 - International and Global Politics

TBC

Tuesday 18.00 (O Flaherty Theatre); Wednesday 18.00 (O Flaherty Theatre)

In semester two students must complete one core module and choose TWO options(subjects) module from Option 3

(Core Module):

SP220 Methods for Social & Political Science

Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Bernadine Brady

Monday 14:00 (O Flaherty Theatre); Tuesday 12:00 (O Flaherty Theatre)

(Option 3):

SP212 Classical Social Thought

Lisa Walshe and Colleagues

Wednesday 12.00 (MRA 201, Ryan Institute); Friday 12.00 (IT250, IT Building)

OR

SP215.II Modern Political Thought

Gerry Fitzpatrick

Wednesday 12.00 (Colm O'hEocha AM250); Friday 12.00 (Colm O'hEocha AM250)

Frequently Asked Questions

Help with my academic writing?

Students will receive direction and help by way of in-class tasks, assignments, and essay structure advice, from their module/seminar tutors/teachers and fellow students. Many small seminars are designed to develop a student's academic writing and guidelines are provided in relevant discipline handbooks. Further help is available to all students in the form of the Academic Writing Centre (contact the library directly or email writingcentre@universityofgalway.ie).

Do I need to stick to the word limit on my essays?

The word limits are given for a specific reason in each case so it is important to aim for the particular word count instructed. Penalties will apply if the word count is more than 10% below or above the word limit. These word limits relate to the main text so excludes the title, bibliography and footnotes.

Can I email assignments and essays?

No: email submission of examinable material is not accepted nor admissible. All examinable materials are required to be uploaded through Turnitin on Canvas and a digital receipt, plus the relevant submission form, handed to the lecturer/tutor on the proposed submission date.

How can I find out about Turnitin?

Information on Turnitin is available from your seminar or module tutors or by following the link www.universityofgalway.ie/teaching-with-technology/technologies/turnitin/.

Academic Integrity Policy

The Policy states, 'Academic misconduct is any attempt to gain or help others gain an unfair academic advantage'. This can be 'intentional or inadvertent', and can be committed in a variety of ways (University of Galway 2022).

The following examples of academic misconduct are quoted from the University Policy (please note that this is not an exhaustive list):

- 'Submitting work as your own for assessment, which has, in fact, been done in whole or in part by someone else'
- 'Cheating in exams (e.g., crib notes, copying, using disallowed tools, impersonation)'
- 'Cheating in projects (e.g., collusion; using 'essay mills' to carry out the allocated part of the project)'
- 'Self-plagiarism where you submit work which has previously been submitted for a different assignment without permission/acknowledgement'
- 'Posting advertisements for services which encourage contract cheating either physically or virtually'
- 'Submitting all or part of an assessment item which has been produced using artificial intelligence (e.g. Google Translate or other machine translation services/software, AI essay writing service etc.) and claiming it as your own work.'

Source: University of Galway (2022) 'QA220 Academic Integrity Policy', available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registrar/policiesmay2023/QA220-Academic-Integrity-Policy-v2.0-Sept-2023.pdf>.

What is the procedure for dealing with conflict or querying my marks and grades?

Your first port-of-call is to make contact with your module tutor, teacher or lecturer. There may be issues that you are not considering when calculating your marks, for example. If you are still unhappy, you should go directly to the second-year programme coordinator or any of the programme directors (Prof. France Fahy or Dr Mike Hynes). If you are still unhappy, you can appeal directly to the College of Arts, Social Science and Celtic Studies: Catherine McCurry is the direct contact in this instance (email catherine.mccurry@universityofgalway.ie).

What do I do if I run into difficulties with time to submit an assignment or essay?

We all can run into difficulties from time to time so your first port-of-call, again, is your module tutor, teacher or lecturer BEFORE THE STATED DEADLINE. He/she may be in a position to give you an extension on the submission of your assignment or essay based on documented medical evidence or for other exceptional circumstances. If this is not possible, you should contact the School or Department Year Coordinator (or indeed the Programme Coordinator) to make your request. It is important to note that penalties may apply to such extension so please consult the module handbook in each particular case.

Do I have to register for Canvas?

Students are automatically enrolled on Canvas once registered with the University. Your courses will then appear once you log on with your username and password. It is advisable to confirm your access to Canvas before needing it for important module information, online contributions, or deadlines. Further information on Canvas is available at universityofgalway.canvas.com/.

I am having a problem with my student online account or email account.

The Information Solutions and Services (ISS) Department provides support and advice to students experiencing IT problems (see www.universityofgalway.ie/information-solutions-services/). Assistance is provided via the ticketing service and Helpdesk (at servicedesk.universityofgalway.ie/) or by ringing extension 5777. Please note that ISS are not in a position to assist students with their personal computer & laptop problems.

Are there other types of support for students?

Students are entitled to draw on the network of support services across the University (please see www.universityofgalway.ie/student_services/ for further information). The Disability Support Service (see www.universityofgalway.ie/disability/) promotes inclusive practices throughout the campus community and is committed to the provision of an equitable learning environment that will enable students to become independent learners and highly skilled graduates. The university also has a team of qualified and experienced counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists and information about the Counselling Service is available at <http://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/>.

Year Two - Semester One Timetable

Time/Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am		BSS2103 Introduction to Sustainability (ENG2001 Alice Perry Building)			
10am	TI2102 Introduction to GIS (T125G Ground Floor)				
11am					
12noon	SP216.I European Politics (O'Flaherty Theatre)	SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses (AMB 1021)	SP235 Social Issues and Policy Responses (AMB 1021)		SP2116 Sociology of Health (O'Flaherty Theatre) OR SP2117 International & Global Politics (AMB 1023)
1pm	TI229 Political & Cultural Geography (O tNuthail Theatre)	TI251 Theory & Practice (IT250 Theatre)			
2pm	SP216.I European Politics (O'Flaherty Theatre)	SP2116 Sociology of Health (AMB 1021) OR SP2117 International & Global Politics (AUC G002)			
3pm			TI229 Political & Cultural Geography (McMunn Theatre)		
4pm					
5pm			TI251 Theory & Practice (AUC G002 Áras Uí Chathail)		
6pm					

Year Two - Semester Two Timetable

Time/Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am		BSS2101 Cooperative Learning and Group Research Methods (AC201 Lecture Room)			
10am					
11am					
12noon		SP220 Research Methods for Social & Political Science (O'Flaherty Theatre)	SP215.II Modern Political Thought OR SP212 Classical Social Thought		SP215.II Modern Political Thought OR SP212 Classical Social Thought
1pm		TI252 Theory & Practice (Anderson Theatre)			
2pm	SP220 Research Methods for Social & Political Science (O'Flaherty Theatre)				
3pm					
4pm					
5pm			TI252 Theory & Practice (AUC G002 Áras Uí Chathail)		
6pm					

NOTES



Further information on the Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences) is available at www.ssrc.ie/bass