



OLLSCOIL NA  
GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY

Coláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí  
Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh  
College of Arts, Social Sciences  
& Celtic Studies

# *Sociological and Political Science*



University  
of Galway.ie

# Subject Overview

The School of Political Science and Sociology at University of Galway is unique in Ireland for offering two academic disciplines in a fully integrated way in the Joint Honours subject of Sociological and Political Studies. Political Science is the systematic study of political life, political activity or behaviour, as well as important political concepts, such as freedom, democracy and equality. It combines elements of history, economics and philosophy but has its own unique approach, style and theoretical literature.

Sociology is the study of society, social issues, and social interactions. It aims to understand connection between social structures, history, individual and power through critique of social facts and trends. Sociology helps us to make sense of the world we live in by using critical and theoretical literature that reflects on the general running of society, social order, and social problems.

Both disciplines investigate the social and political life through informed rational argument, criticism, and existing knowledge, and they generate deeper arguments and analysis about why our societies are the way they are, and if they could be improved.

**Subject Name:** Sociological and Political Studies

**Course Name:** Bachelor of Arts (Joint-Honours)

**CAO Code:** GY101

**Duration:** 3-4 years

**Entry Requirements:** Minimum Grade HC3 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at H or O Level in the Leaving Certificate, including: Irish, English, another language, and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.



### **Career Opportunities**

Graduates of Sociological and Political Studies have an excellent foundation for a career in public administration, health and social services, policy research and analysis, journalism and in various voluntary, public, and private sector areas, including social work and community-based groups.

### **Study Abroad**

After second year there are options to study abroad under the Erasmus scheme in other European universities, but also to a number of universities in North America and China. If you take Sociological and Political Studies with a modern European language you will be obliged to spend a year abroad in a country in which your language is spoken.

### **Bachelor of Arts (Joint-Honours)**

In first year of the Bachelor of Arts degree, students choose THREE subjects from a wide pool of options. The Joint Honours subject Sociological and Political Studies is combined with two other subjects. Subjects are organised in seven groups and not more than one subject may be taken from any one group. In second year and final year, you will study two subjects, one of which is Political Science and Sociology.



# Course Outline

## Year One

The First Year programme in Sociological and Political Studies provides an understanding of major political and social developments taking place in Ireland and the wider world. It is a foundation for the study of Sociological and Political Studies in subsequent years while also providing students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge of core ideas in Sociology and Politics

## Year Two

The Second Year programme in Sociological and Political Studies builds on the work of political and social processes and ideas introduced in First Year. It establishes a core understanding of traditions of social and political ideas; examines current political developments in Europe and internationally; and lays the foundations of research methods for social and political scientists. This year also broadens its scope by introducing choices for students.

## Third Year

In final year, you are encouraged to critically evaluate the themes, topics and questions built into each course. Lectures in Third Year provide in-depth understanding of society and politics in Ireland and internationally. You can also choose from a wide range of specialist electives on topics such as divided societies, conflict and peace, human rights and equality, sustainable development, bioeconomy, culture and politics, social work and welfare, child and youth studies, religion, and gender and sexuality.

## Find Out More

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