

MODULE: UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY

Semester:	I (Fall)
Stage:	I - Foundation
Theme :	Social & Political Theory
Assessment Weighting:	Exam (60%) Assignment (40%)
Number of Credits:	4 semester credits / 6 quarter units

INTRODUCTION

Humans are social and relational beings. This module will enable students to think through the socio-economic roots of contemporary problems and the social-psychological basis of social action. It is necessary develop a sociological outlook when confronted with social institutions, processes and problems. It is also necessary to understand the economic realities that contribute to problem formation and problem resolution in society and the psychological roots of human action and understanding.

MODULE AIMS

This first year aims to acquaint students with the basic conceptual tools they will need to understand the reasons for social and economic action and the formation of human social understanding. This will help them acquire an insight into the working of socio-economic processes.

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This module supports the following programme learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate critical judgement and analytical skills
- Accommodate further study in related areas in years two and three on the programme

It does this by specifically ensuring that on module completion, students will be in a position to:

- Discuss the key concepts of classical social theory
- Apply these concepts to illuminate contemporary Irish society

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Continuous assessment by means of two written assignments involving directed reading and analysis. In the assignments students will be expected to demonstrate their ability to apply the concepts of social theory to contemporary Irish society.

Assessment weighting:

Continuous assessments 40%

Final Examination

60%