

## EC267 Economics of Public and Social Policy Course Outline

<b>Module Aims</b>	The aim of this module is to build on students' knowledge of microeconomic principles and apply and extend that knowledge within the context of an analysis of social policy and the welfare state in Ireland and in Europe. Students will acquire an understanding of market failure, and why and how the State intervenes in social policy to correct these failures.				
<b>Course Instructor</b>	<b>Stephen McNena</b> Top floor, Arus Bhride, St. Angela's College, Sligo E-mail: <a href="mailto:smcnen@stangelas.nuigalway.ie">smcnen@stangelas.nuigalway.ie</a> Telephone: (071) 919 5542				
<b>Time and Venue</b>	<b>Lectures:</b> Thursday 9-11am				
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and explain what is meant by welfare and the welfare state</li> <li>• Describe the general size and scope of modern welfare states, and, in more detail, describe the size and scope of the Irish welfare state</li> <li>• Describe theories of social justice, and outline how each theory relates to social policy and the welfare state</li> <li>• describe welfare state regimes, and develop the arguments concerning Ireland's position among the various welfare state regimes</li> <li>• apply the economic concepts of economic efficiency, equity and market failure to social policy</li> <li>• analyse why and how the State intervenes in social policy</li> <li>• analyse the general challenges facing welfare states and evaluate possible reforms of the welfare state</li> </ul>				
<b>Course Material</b>	All materials are available at <a href="https://nuigalway.blackboard.com">https://nuigalway.blackboard.com</a>				
<b>Assessment</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">End of year Written Examination (2 hours, Dec 2014)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Continuous assessment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note that coursework will be submitted via Blackboard/Moodle. TurnItIn software will be used to analyse assignments and essays for originality.</p>	End of year Written Examination (2 hours, Dec 2014)	60%	Continuous assessment	40%
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<b>Workload</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Credit weighting</td> <td>5 ECTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lecture hours</td> <td>24 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Directed study, preparation for class</td> <td>24 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignment and essay</td> <td>15 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Written examination</td> <td>2 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent study</td> <td>35 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total workload</td> <td>100 hours</td> </tr> </table>	Credit weighting	5 ECTS	Lecture hours	24 hours	Directed study, preparation for class	24 hours	Assignment and essay	15 hours	Written examination	2 hours	Independent study	35 hours	Total workload	100 hours
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<b>Textbooks &amp; Readings</b>	<p><b>Principal textbooks</b></p> <p>Barr, N. (2004) <i>The Economics of the Welfare State</i>, 4th ed., Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Le Grand, J., Propper, C. and S. Smith (2008) <i>The economics of social problems</i>, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>McCashin, A. (2004) <i>Social Security in Ireland</i> Gill and Macmillan</p> <p>National Economic and Social Council (2005) <i>The Developmental Welfare State</i>.</p> <p>The following general social policy textbooks are also useful:</p> <p>Healy, S., Reynolds B., and M. Collins eds. (2006) <i>Social policy in Ireland: principles, practice and problems</i>. Revised and updated edition, Dublin: The Liffey Press.</p> <p>Kiely, G., ed. (1999) <i>Irish social policy in context</i></p> <p>Kiely, G., ed. (2005) <i>Contemporary Irish Social Policy</i></p> <p>O’Hagan, J. and Newman, C. (eds.) <i>The Economy of Ireland</i> – any recent edition</p>														
<b>Other resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Statistics Office <a href="http://www.cso.ie">www.cso.ie</a></li> <li>• Eurostat</li> <li>• The OECD <a href="http://www.oecd.org">www.oecd.org</a></li> <li>• The Economic and Social Research Institute <a href="http://www.esri.ie">www.esri.ie</a></li> <li>• National Economic and Social Council <a href="http://www.nesc.ie">www.nesc.ie</a></li> <li>• See links to additional resources on Blackboard/Moodle</li> </ul>														
<b>Topics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Introduction to the Welfare State</li> <li>2 Theories of society</li> <li>3 Economic rationale for the Welfare State</li> <li>4 Conceptual frameworks for analysing the Welfare State</li> <li>5 The Irish welfare state</li> <li>6 Health policy</li> <li>7 Social Care</li> <li>8 Pensions</li> <li>9 Poverty and inequality</li> <li>10 Challenges and reforms</li> </ol>														

## **Module introduction**

Over the course of the last century, the economic and social roles of the state have increased dramatically. The state now assumes primary responsibility in many countries for ensuring socially acceptable levels of social welfare, health, social care, and economic well-being for individual and families. These welfare-related programmes and policies reflect prevailing beliefs regarding the proper role of the state and market in modern capitalist societies. Not surprisingly, the size and character of the Welfare State shows huge variation, ranging from the individual and market oriented US to the social and more state centred Scandinavian countries.

The aim of this module is to build on students' knowledge of microeconomic principles and apply and extend that knowledge within the context of an analysis of the welfare state in Ireland and in Europe. Efficiency and equity issues will be stressed.

## **Continuous Assessment**

Attendance and coursework will account for **40%** of the module score. This is substantial, so it is very important that students attend all classes and complete all coursework on time.

There will be two assignments, worth 30%. Note that assignments will be submitted via Blackboard / Moodle. TurnItIn software will be used to analyse assignments and essays for originality.

There will be an in-class test on topic 5: the Irish welfare state. This topic will be covered in directed study by students. The test will be worth 10%.

Full **attendance and engagement** at all classes is very important. Attendance at classes will be monitored and recorded. Students who have a poor attendance record will be brought to the attention of the relevant Course Co-ordinator.

## **Warning about using mobile phones in class**

## **Blackboard / Moodle**

## **Reading and writing**

Reading and writing are at the heart of all Arts degrees. It is very important that all students develop their skills in reading books, reports and journal articles, across all the modules they are studying.

No matter what path you follow in life, it is likely that you will be required to communicate effectively in writing. So you should focus on practising and improving your writing abilities. Please see the Writing Skills handbook for guidance.

In this year of your Arts degree you will have to write several essays and other pieces of coursework. In this module, you will write two essays / assignments.