DEPARTMENT *of*
POLITICS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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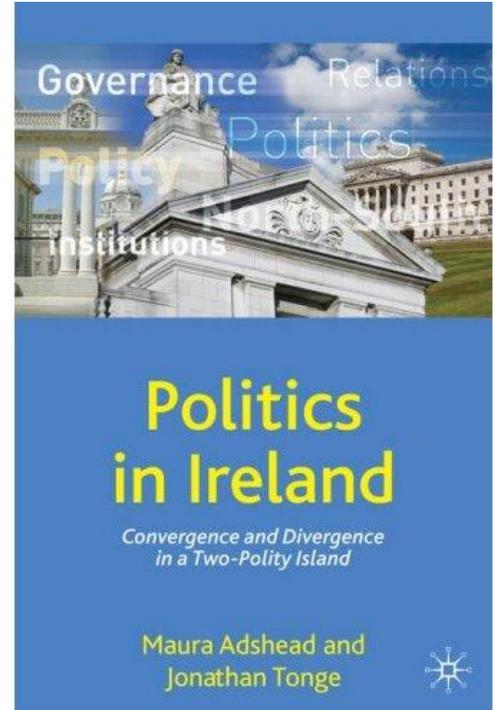PA

PO4043 Introduction to Irish Government and Politics

Maura Adshead; Room: F1027; tel: 353-61-213429; **maura.adshead@ul.ie**

Aims and Objectives

This module is designed to build on and develop the knowledge gained in earlier politics modules by examining the politics and society of a single country in more depth. The course will apply a range of alternative analytical perspectives from political science and the sub-disciplines of political economy, political sociology, public administration and public policy, to the study of the government and politics of Ireland.

At a practical level, this course aims to:

- introduce students to the government and politics of Ireland
- develop analytic and evaluative skills for examining the processes of government and politics
- understand the historical and political development of the Irish state, and be able to identify key influences in that development;
- Be familiar with key institutions and their workings;

Governance Relations
Politics
Policy
Institutions

Politics in Ireland

Convergence and Divergence in a Two-Polity Island

Maura Adshead and Jonathan Tonge

Contents

The module will contain three main components: the institutional framework of government and administration – the executive, legislature and bureaucracy; political behaviour - including government, parties, party system, electoral behaviour and political culture; and an analysis of the public administration and policy making - looking at territorial administration and sub-national government, economic policy-making and the advent of partnership government; the welfare state and social policy; plus Ireland's role in the EU and beyond.

Core Readings

Adshead, M. and Tonge, J. (2009) 'Politics in Ireland', Basingstoke: Palgrave.
Gallagher, Michael and Coakley, John (eds) (2005) *Government and Politics in the Republic of Ireland*, 4th edn, London: Routledge, 2005
Muiris MacCarthaigh (2008) *Government in Modern Ireland*, Dublin, Institute for Public Administration,
O'Toole, J. and Dooney, S. (2009) *Irish government today*, 3rd edition, Dublin: Gill and Macmillan