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;

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