



Power, States, and Social Movements 2 | SOU22052

Year	Senior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22
Pre-requisite	
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Camilla Devitt
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Module Outline:

Political sociology is concerned with the social bases of politics and the relationship between states and societies. Through examining the nature of power, states, the policy process and social movements, this course provides sociological insights into the world of politics, policy, and social change. This module introduces students to the major ideas and debates within the field of political sociology and provides them with some of the tools needed to analyse power, politics and the state. In particular, it examines interactions between economic interests, political institutions, and ideological norms. The module has equally strong theoretical and empirical components and aims to expand students' knowledge of society and politics in a number of countries. Topics include power, the nature of the state, the organization and representation of interests, gender and social policy and nations and immigration.

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Discuss sociological explanations of political processes;
- Relate this theoretical understanding to empirical data and analyses for more than two advanced democracies;
- Compare and contrast competing approaches in the field;
- Relate concepts and theories to current political challenges in Ireland.



Assessment:

- End of term essay - 2,500-words (100%)

Recommended Reading List:

There is no textbook for this course. The following three books are useful general readings:

- Janoski, Thomas, et al., eds. 2020. *The new handbook of political sociology*. Cambridge University Press
- Lukes, Steven. 2004. *Power: A Radical View*, 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Migdal, Joel. 2001. *State in Society: Studying How States and Societies Transform and Constitute One Another*. Cambridge University Press.
- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. *What is political sociology?* Wiley