



Evaluation of Public Policy (SPA471)

- Module Outline –

[Subject to change]

Co-ordinators	Name	Office	Ext	E-mail
	Dr. Brenda Gannon, <i>Irish Centre for Social Gerontology</i>	Room 309 Cairnes Building NUI Galway	5459	Brenda.gannon@nuigalway.ie
	Dr. Brian Hughes, <i>Centre for Research on Occupational and Life Stress</i>	Room 216 Cairnes Building NUI Galway	3568	Brian.hughes@nuigalway.ie
Times	Day	Time	Venue	
	Classes:	23/03/10	09:30-17:00	CA113
		24/03/10	09:30-17:00	CA113
		25/03/10	09:30-13:30	CA113
Overall Learning Outcomes	<p>The module aims to give students the opportunity to acquire knowledge relevant to becoming sophisticated participants in, consumers of, and commentators on, public policy debates as they relate to social science areas. Adopting a social science perspective, it is assumed that optimal public policy will be evidence-based. As such, the module will examine the nature, production, and evaluation of evidence in this context. Consideration is given to the issues surrounding quantitative and qualitative evidence and the practice of evaluation. The module will also address evaluative case-studies of evidence-based public policy. The module aims to highlight the pertinence of social sciences to public policy development, the contribution of social sciences to the discussion of public policy, and the importance of academic rigour in maximising the role of social sciences in public policy arenas.</p> <p>Indicative Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>On successful completion of this module, students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to critique the production and application of quantitative information for public policy • be able to critique the production and application of qualitative information for public policy • be able to critique the broader implications of applying social science knowledge to public policy contexts • be able to scrutinise and reflect on the norms of practice in evidence-based public policy related to the social sciences • be able to communicate innovative insights related to public policy to peers 			

Evaluation of Public Policy

Format	The module comprises of five themes covered over 2½ days in block release. Successful completion of the module requires you to read material in advance of the sessions, attend and participate at the sessions, prepare a group presentation and submit a final assignment			
			Session Title	Speaker
	Day 1	09:30-10:00	Opening and Introduction	Brenda Gannon <i>Irish Centre for Social Gerontology</i>
		10:00-11:30	Evaluations in Child/Family Contexts	To be confirmed <i>Child and Family Research Centre</i>
		11:30-12:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
		12:00-13:00	Evaluations and public policy	Brenda Gannon <i>Irish Centre for Social Gerontology</i>
		13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
		14:00-15:30	Evaluations in the Ageing Sector	Eamonn O'Shea <i>Irish Centre for Social Gerontology</i>
		15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee</i>	
		16:00-17:00	Evidence-based policy: Good, bad, and ugly	Brian Hughes <i>Centre for Research on Occupational and Life Stress</i>
	Day 2	09:30-11:00	Public policy decision-making	Gemma Carney <i>Irish Centre for Social Gerontology</i>
		11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee</i>	
		11:30-13:00	To be confirmed	Speaker <i>Centre from Disability Law and Policy</i>
		13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
		14:00-17:00	Workshop: Group-based evaluations of specific policies; preparation of presentations on same	Brenda Gannon <i>Irish Centre for Social Gerontology</i>
	Day 3	9:30-11:00	Presentations: Groups 1 & 2	Chaired by Brenda Gannon, ICSG, & Brian Hughes, CROLS
		11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee</i>	
		11:30-13:00	Presentations: Groups 3 & 4	Chaired by Brenda Gannon, ICSG, & Brian Hughes, CROLS
		13:00-13:30	Close of Module	Brenda Gannon <i>Irish Centre for Social Gerontology</i>
	Primary programme	ISSP Structured PhD in Social Sciences		
Course Material	A module web will be available at http://blackboard.nuigalway.ie . This facility will be used to download module materials and speaker presentations, and to engage in discussion forums before and after the sessions.			

Evaluation of Public Policy

Reading List	Students will be pre-assigned to groups and each group will receive a policy paper in advance of the Module.
Additional reading	To be assigned.
Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Group presentation (40%): Based on presentation made during module, evaluating an assigned public policy document.2. Individual paper (60%): An evaluation paper based on the assigned public policy document, 1500 words, to be submitted by 6/11/09. <p>Marking format: Categorical (Pass/Fail)</p>
Workload	Credit weighting: 5 ECTS credits