

Bachelor of Science in Geography and Geosystems

**Academic Year 2020/2021
Year Coordinator: Dr Gordon Bromley**

Timetable: *Reflecting the likelihood of schedule adjustments due to COVID-19 restrictions, only the timetable for Semester 1 is provided below. A revised handbook containing the finalised timetable for Semester 2 will be provided to all GY134 students before the end of Semester 1.*

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 9-10 AM | | BO101 L | | | *BO101 P |
| 10-11 AM | CP102 L | MA160 calculus L | MA160 Algebra L | MA160 Algebra L | 9.30-11.30 AM |
| 11-12 PM | | BO101 L | | BO101 L | |
| 12-1 PM | | CP102 L | TI150 / TI1100 L | CP102 L | *BO101 P |
| 1-2 PM | MA160 calculus L | | | MA160 T | 12-2 PM |
| 2-3 PM | | | *BO101 P | CP102 T | CP102 P |
| 3-4 PM | TI150 / TI1100 L | | 2-4 PM | | 2-4.30 PM |
| 4-5 PM | | | *BO101 P | *BO101 P | |
| 5-6 PM | | TI150 / TI1100 L | 4.30-6.30 PM | 4.30-6.30 PM | |

L – Lecture; T – Tutorial; P – Practical

Note: BO101 practicals will be finalised after registration. Students will be assigned to just one of the five practical slots shown.

Welcome Seminar: To welcome the inaugural cohort of *Geography & Geosystems* BSc students, we will be holding an introductory meet-and-greet seminar at 2–3 PM Monday 28th September, in AM150. This seminar will be a key opportunity for all new students to meet each other and some of the staff who will be working with you, not just this year but throughout the duration of your programme. Attendance is required. AM150 is indicated on the map below:



Module Outlines:

BO101 Biology

Coordinator: Dr Peter Creighton (peter.creighton@nuigalway.ie)

Biology is an integrative and interdisciplinary field that aims to investigate the dynamic and complex nature of living systems in terms of their molecular components and the interactions between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environment. This module will introduce students to fundamental concepts of biology. The course is intended to provide the necessary biological background to allow learners in general and specialised Science courses, Foundation Medicine and Biomedical Engineering to progress into more specialised topics in later years. First, the nature of biomolecules and the basis for cellular form and function are discussed. Then students are introduced to the structure, function, diversity and impact of plants, animals, and microorganisms.

BY101 comprises three lectures and one lab practical per week. **All lectures will be delivered online in 2020/21; All practicals will be delivered on campus.** You will be assigned a time slot for the practical upon registration.

CP102 Chemistry & Physics

Coordinator Sem 1: Dr Brian Ward, Chemistry (bward@nuigalway.ie)

Coordinator Sem 2: Dr Ray Butler, Physics (ray.butler@nuigalway.ie)

This module lays a broad foundation in chemistry and physics for students who need an introductory level knowledge of the physical sciences for the denominated courses in Marine Science and Health and Safety Systems. Some of the students may have level 4/5 knowledge of either or both subjects but no prior knowledge is assumed in the course design. The level of mathematics required for the physics component is simple algebra and trigonometry.

CP102 comprises three lectures and one tutorial per week. **All lectures and tutorials will be delivered online in 2020/21.** The module also includes 8 practicals per semester, occurring every second week. Four practicals will be delivered on campus (space permitting); the remaining four will be online.

MA161 Mathematical Studies

Coordinator: Dr John Burns (john.burns@nuigalway.ie) and Dr Angela Carnevale (angela.carnevale@nuigalway.ie)

Mathematical Studies MA161 is an introduction to university mathematics aimed at students studying the physical and life sciences. The majority of MA161 students will have studied ordinary level mathematics at Leaving Certificate, though some will have studied the subject at higher level. Although students are unable to proceed from this module to a Mathematics BSc, the module does lead on to a range of second- and third-year Mathematical Studies modules relevant

to the physical and life sciences. (By taking a total of 60 ECTS of appropriate Mathematical Studies modules during their undergraduate studies, students can satisfy the Teaching Council's subject requirements for mathematics teachers while majoring in another Science subject.)

MA161 comprises four lectures and one tutorial per week. ***All lectures and tutorials will be delivered online in 2020/21.***

TI 150 Principles of Human Geography

Coordinator: Dr John McDonagh (john.mcdonagh@nuigalway.ie)

This course seeks to introduce key problems, concepts and contexts within human geography. Its focus is a contemporary one, which strives to illuminate the world of today by exploring and analysing the origin of central issues that make the headlines (or not) in the media and beyond. The course places lectures alongside the information given in the textbook; for examination purposes, both are essential. Major Themes covered in TI 150 (subject to change depending on staff availability) Rural Geographies, Cultural Geographies, Environment and Society, Social Geographies, Economic Geographies, Political Geographies, Development Geographies, Urban Geographies.

TI150 (Semester 1) comprises **three online lectures per week.**

TI 151 Principles of Physical Geography

Coordinator: Dr John McDonagh (john.mcdonagh@nuigalway.ie)

This course is designed to provide insight and understanding to the fundamental concepts and principles of physical geography as an academic discipline. In doing this, the course explores how the physical environment functions; how different environmental systems interact and how the physical environment impacts on human activities. The course explores the various components that make up these environmental systems, such as the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and geosphere. In addition, the course also provides some understanding of how these fundamentals apply to Ireland and in so doing gives an insight into the richness of the physical geography of Ireland. Major Themes covered in TI 151: The Biosphere: Biogeography – species distribution and ecosystems; The Atmosphere: Weather and Climate, Glaciers and Glaciation; The Hydrosphere: Rivers The Geosphere: Coasts.

TI151 (Semester 2) comprises **three online lectures per week.**

TI 1100 Geography in Practice (GiP)

Coordinator: Dr Valerie Ledwith (Valerie.ledwith@nuigalway.ie)

This module introduces first year geography students to a range of field-based learning environments designed to enhance their learning experience and develop their research competences. Supported by class-based teaching & technical instruction, students undertake a series of themed exercises and

projects involving observation & measurement techniques, geographical mapping, topographic & geological data, and relevant methods of analysis & reporting.

Module Aims: This course aims to

- a) Provide students with basic skills for appropriate writing and literature citation in geography,
- b) Introduce field components and provide students with field-based skills in both human and physical geographies,
- c) Provide students with basic skills for mapping, data representation and geographical information systems (GIS)

TI1100 shares the timetable with TI150/151 and comprises **five online lectures per semester** and **five on-campus tutorials**. Tutorial slots will be assigned in class.

CÉIM is NUIG's acclaimed peer learning programme initiated by the Students' Union and offered to all Geography first year students. This student-led support and academic network is a highly effective way for students to get to know their cohort and to obtain help and/or guidance on their academic careers from their fellow NUIG students. This year more than ever, with the majority of your programme being delivered online, we encourage all BSc students to engage with the CÉIM shared learning community. Please see an introductory video at this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5GYEWW_etQ&feature=youtu.be



For further information about CÉIM, please feel free to contact Valerie Ledwith (Valerie.ledwith@nuigalway.ie)