

2BA Handbook 2023/24

Discipline of Geography 2nd year timetable 2023/2024

Semester 1

ECTS	Second Year	Coordinator	Day, Time
5	T1251 Theory & Practice (core)	Dr Kevin Lynch	Tues 1pm: IT250 Theatre Wed 5pm: AUC G002
5	T1254 Space, Place & Irish Landscape OR T1216 Weather & Climate	Prof Ulf Strohmayer Dr Gordon Bromley	Mon 10am: Joseph Larmor Theatre Fri 9am: Joseph Larmor Theatre Fri 9am: Fottrell Theatre Fri 10am: Fottrell Theatre
5	T1235 Biogeography OR T1229 Political & Cultural Geography	Dr Terry Morley Dr Frances Carter	Wed 3pm: IT 250 Theatre First Floor Thurs 10am: IT 250 Theatre First Floor Mon 1pm: AMB 1023 Mairtin O tNuthail Theatre Wed 3pm: Charles McMunn Theatre
10	T12102 Introduction to GIS	Dr Oisín Callery	Mon 10am: AUC G002, Aras Ui Chathail

Semester 2

5	T1252 Theory & Practice (core)	Dr Kevin Lynch	Mon 1pm: Anderson Lecture Theatre Wed 5pm: AUC G002 Theatre Aras Ui Chathail
5	T1258 Rural Environments OR T12104 Marine Spatial Planning OR T12108 Introduction to Palaeoclimatology	Dr John McDonagh Dr Liam Carr Dr Aaron Potito	Mon 10am: IT250 First Floor Tues 1pm: Fottrell Theatre Mon 10am: IT125 Ground Floor Tues 1pm: IT125 Ground Floor Mon 10am: Tyndall Theatre Tues 1pm: Venue AC214
5	T1255 Earth Surface, Landforms and Processes OR T1230 Economic Geography	Dr Hannah Lehnhart-Barnett Dr Pat Collins	Wed 3pm: IT250 Theatre, First Floor Fri 10am: AMB1023 Mairtin O'Tnuthail Theatre Wed 3pm: AM150 Mairtin O Tnuthail Theatre Fri 9am: Anderson Lecture Theatre

***15 ects are required for each semester**

Key contacts in Geography

Head of Geography	Dr Liam Carr
Geography Administrator	Christina Costello
Senior Technician	Billy Hamilton
2 BA Programme Coordinator	Dr Kevin Lynch
BA International / Visiting Students / Erasmus	TBC
Staff-Student Liaison Officer	Billy Hamilton
Plagiarism Matters	Dr Kevin Lynch
Safety Officer	Billy Hamilton

Academic Calendar 2023/2024

2023/24 Semester 1	
Orientation	Tuesday 28th to Friday 1st September*
Teaching begins	Monday, 4th September, 2023
Teaching ends	Friday, 24th November, 2023
Study Week	Monday, 27th November - Friday, 1st December, 2023
Semester 1 exams start**	Monday, 4th December, 2023
Semester 1 exams end	Friday, 15th December, 2023
Christmas holidays	Saturday, 16th December 2023
2023/24 Semester 2	
Orientation	to be confirmed*
Teaching begins	Monday, 8th January, 2024
Easter holidays	Good Friday, 29th March - Easter Monday, 1st April 2024
Study Week	Monday, 8th April - Friday, 12th April 2024
Examinations begin**	Monday, 15th April, 2024
Examinations end	Wednesday, 1st May, 2024
Autumn Repeat exams	Tuesday, 6th August - Friday, 16th August 2024
<p>Public/Bank Holidays: Monday, 30th October; Wednesday, 18th March (St Patrick's Day); Monday, 10th April (Easter Monday); Monday, 6th May; Monday, 3rd June; Monday, 5th August.</p>	

[\[Further info\]](#)

2BA Geography Module Outlines 2023/2024

Module: TI 251 - Theory and Practice I (compulsory)
Lecturer: Dr Kevin Lynch

The aim of this module is to further develop your understanding of the various aspects of doing geographical research and producing geographical knowledge. The focus is on four existing research clusters prioritised by Geography at NUI Galway: 1. Environmental Change; 2. Rural Change and Development; 3. Geopolitics and Justice; 4. Planning and Sustainability. You will be introduced to key concepts pertinent to each research cluster, supported by empirically- and theoretically-based case study examples of research being conducted by Geography academic staff at NUI Galway. You will gain a deeper understanding of the integration of theory and practice in geography. This module aims to provide a basis to develop your undergraduate research (dissertation) projects in your final year, and through this, a foundation for potential future study in Geography's postgraduate programmes.

Upon completion of this course, you will have:

- a deeper understanding of knowledge production in geographical research;
- a critical understanding of contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches to doing research in geography;
- the ability to think critically about what it means to 'do' geography.

Module: TI 229 – Political and Cultural Geography
Lecturer: Dr Frances Carter

This module provides a critical analysis of key concepts in political and cultural geography. Drawing on key geographic concepts the module provides a framework for understanding contemporary events with respect to culture, politics and the nation-state. It is divided into a series of distinct sections. The course begins with an analysis of issues linked to territoriality and the concepts of nationalism and the development of the nation-state. It progresses to examine focal events and issues associated with religious nationalism, racism, discrimination and the evils of genocide. This module also provides an introduction to the arenas of classical and critical geopolitics, interrogating aspects of a post 9/11 world. It will conclude by looking at the powerful position that the media holds in the transmission of knowledge and the legitimisation of action. A number of political and cultural geographies will be examined to illustrate concepts from the lectures and key readings, including: the construction of national identity in Ireland; division and conflict in Israel/Palestine; genocide in Bosnia and Rwanda; and the globalisation of terror.

Module: TI 216 – Weather & Climate
Lecturer: Dr Gordon Bromley

This course is designed to provide students with applied example of weather and climate phenomena that have a strong impact on human activities. Each week will focus on an acute environmental problem that will be explained and analysed in in-class exercises. Case studies will focus on weather (e.g. storms, hurricanes, drought, flooding) and climate (e.g. past climate change and future global warming) events to provide students with context.

(Language of instruction: English)

Learning Outcomes

- Sketch and explain simple diagrams, maps, or figures relating to weather and climate related environmental issues.
- Explain extreme weather events (including storms and heat waves) in Ireland.
- Explain risks associated with global warming for Ireland and Europe.
- Discuss mechanisms controlling global and regional climatologies (e.g. Monsoons, El Niño)
- Diagram and explain positive and negative feedbacks in climate systems
- Use examples from Earth history to explain how Earth's climate changes on a variety of different timescales
- Comprehend a basic weather map

Module: TI 255 Earth Surface Landforms and Processes
Lecturer: Dr Hannah Lehnhart-Barnett

The purpose of this module is to train students on the physical principles used to understand some basic questions about the Earth's physical landscape: how do natural physical systems (e.g., coastal beach-dune systems; river catchment systems) behave today? how did they behave in the past? and, based on the answers to the first two questions, can we predict how they will behave in the future? In order to answer these questions we examine the characteristics of different processes (water, wind, slope, weather) that shape different landforms in different regions of the world, including some classic case studies in Ireland. This course examines landscape form and function, working through from the theoretical understanding of the landscape to hands-on practical fieldwork by collecting, analysing and presenting data. Emphasis is put on critical analyses of the process-landform models (e.g. sediment transfers; system equilibria) operating on different time scales (seconds to millennia). A core aspect of the course will focus on using a field-based systems approach, emphasizing (1) the connectivity of the different components of our landscape, and (2) how our landscape responds to human and natural pressures.

Module: TI 254 - Space, Place and the Irish Landscape

Lecturer: Professor Ulf Strohmayer

This jointly taught module aims critically to explore the historical and contemporary complexities of Irish culture, place and landscape through select case-studies, thematic and/or locational, and through a range of theoretical concerns from both Archaeology and Geography. The module engages the key challenge of carefully contextualising and historicising understandings of landscape, heritage and environment, and exploring urgent contemporary questions of landscape/environment sustainability, governmentality and management. The module will provide an introduction to the various ways in which human societies interact(ed) with their environment, and will be able to provide both chronological depth and thematically-specific case-study knowledge of key sites and spaces across the island of Ireland.

Key Learning Outcomes:

The course aims to promote

- the ability critically to read the rich diversity of landscape, culture and heritage across the island of Ireland and to understand its key historical contexts
- the proficiency to deconstruct the various political, cultural, economic and symbolic significances of a range of Irish urban and rural landscapes
- the capability to see landscape, memory and heritage as concepts which are fluid, politically and socially constructed and reproduced, and ultimately contested the capacity to interpret representations of historical and contemporary landscapes from a range of theoretically informed and multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Module: TI2102 - Introduction to GIS

Lecturer: Dr Oisín Callery

Module Objectives/Learning Outcome:

- Understand basic concepts in GIS
- Solve basic GIS application problems
- Acquire computer skills in GIS, including data collection, editing, database management, basic analysis, and map design
- Produce professional GIS maps
- Analyse geographical data using GIS

This course covers the basic concepts and applications of a geographic information system (GIS). The topics of GIS data concept, data modelling, attribute management, data input and analysis are explained. GIS software ArcGIS is selected as the main training software package for computer practical in this course. Students will have general knowledge of a GIS and acquire the basic techniques of GIS software to independently produce professional maps and carry out spatial queries and GIS analyses. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to independently complete a simple GIS project.

Lecture content

- Introduction: overview, definition
- Spatial data concept
- Spatial data modelling
- Attribute data management
- Data input
- Data analysis

Computer practical content

- Getting started; Interacting with data; Coordinates; Symbolizing; Classifying
- Labelling; Layout design; Table joining; Selecting; Editing; Querying; Analyzing; QGIS

Practical: 44 hours Computer practical (AC 216 GIS Lab, Arts/Science Building)
Extra hours Tutorial (Optional, for students needing help for the assignments)
4 hours (2h on Monday/Tuesday + 2h on Tuesday/Wednesday) per week
Due to Covid-19 restrictions, students are separated into 3 groups.
Sign-up sheet will available via Blackboard in Week 1.
Mon 12-2, 2-4, Tues 10-12, 12-2, Wed 9-11, 11-13.
Computer practical starts from Week 2.

Module: TI 252 - Theory and Practice 2 (compulsory)

Lecturer: Dr Kevin Lynch

The intention of this course is to develop students' understanding of the various traditions of doing geographical research and producing geographical knowledge. The course introduces students to both theory and practice in geography, focusing in particular on relationships between geographical concepts and the practices of geographical research. Geographical thought will be considered through lectures and assignments that examine the wide range of interconnected theoretical and methodological assumptions that underwrite analysis and evidence gathering in the discipline. In addition, the course aims to familiarise students with the different ways that geographers do research. Critical analysis of all approaches to geographical knowledge will be stressed. Particular emphasis is put on developing a critical understanding of what it means to do geography and make geographical claims.

Key Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students are expected:

- to gain an understanding of the history and practice of the discipline;
- to gain a critical understanding of the different theoretical and methodological approaches to all knowledge production in geography;
- to develop the ability to think critically about geography and what it means to 'do' geography.

Module: TI 258 - Rural Environments; Sustainability and Management
Lecturer: Dr John McDonagh

Module Outline:

Rural areas are spaces of opportunity, engines of growth in a world of economic uncertainty. Rural areas are challenged in terms of their role in providing safe and secure food supplies; they are lauded and criticized in terms of climate change and mitigation. Alongside the decline in traditional activities there is equally a growth in terms of new demands being placed on rural environments, demands for quality food production, public amenity space, conservation and environmental protection. The multiple scales of these discussions, global to local, and the intensity and increased volume of rural debate that has emerged, sees rural geographers occupy a very interesting space in terms of conceptualisations, engagement and understanding of rural livelihoods and rural sustainability. Through the lens of agriculture and related spheres, this course seeks to explore some of these challenges as they are played out in contemporary society. The course uses national and international examples to explore such issues as agricultural policy particularly CAP, landscape management, conservation and sustainability. The aim of the course is one of encouraging students to view the rural as a combination of forces that interact within and between different systems to produce the complex environment in which we live. This course engages with key issues that focus on: CAP; Rural Policy and Strategy; Issues of Governance; Management issues; Multifunctionality; the *Family Farm*, Rural Tourism, Agri-environmental Policies and Rural Futures

Key Learning Outcomes:

- To understand the rural landscape its policy, governance and management
- To improve critical and analytical skills;
- To link theoretical observations with practical examples;
- To assess the principal methods and approaches that can be employed to develop our understanding of the rural landscape.

Module: TI 235 - Biogeography
Lecturer: Dr Terry Morley

This class provides an introduction to the study of biogeography. Bridging the fields of biology (particularly ecology) and geography, biogeography is the study of the spatial patterns of biological diversity and its causes. We will identify how historical, physical, and biological factors affect present and past distributions of individuals, species, populations, communities, and ecosystems. The actions of humans are a critical force impacting other species, and the human influence on past, present, and future species distributions is a central topic in this module.

Key Learning Outcomes:

This course offers a survey of the basics of biogeography and introduces students to various methodologies used in biogeographic research. Hands-on field, lab, and data analysis exercises will allow students to put learned concepts into practice, and give students experience working with the techniques used by biogeographers. The following learning outcomes are expected upon completion of this course:

- To identify and differentiate the basic principles and theories of biogeography
- Application of standard field methodologies and data analysis techniques used in biogeography to analyse and examine applied problems
- To assess and evaluate human impacts on species distributions and apply modern conservation strategies to these issues

Module: TI230 - Economic Geography
Lecturer: Dr Pat Collins

Economic geography offers a unique perspective on many of today's key issues. From the economic restricting resulting from a global pandemic to the ongoing globalisation experiment, the aim of this course is to offer students an alternative viewpoint that comes from the plurality of approaches in economic geography.

The course will introduce you to some of the key thinking in economic geography, which seeks to explain the clustering and unevenness of economic activity throughout the world. It will explore the process of globalisation and the role of transnational corporations and foreign investment in that process.

An underlying theme of the course will be the impact of technology on the evolution and changing nature of economic activity. From infrastructure investments to smart phone, the new geography of economic activity is changing rapidly. Throughout the course you will be reminded of policy relevance of economic geography. In addition to examining regional development challenges, attention will also be given to the challenge faced by peripheral rural areas in exploiting the benefits of new technologies. The approach taken in this course will be very applied and related to the policy issues focused on by government agencies in Ireland such as the IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and case studies of emerging industries (App developers and craft beer brewers). The course will consider economic geographies of recession as well as focus on the rise of creative and cultural economic geographies.

Key Learning Outcomes:

- An understanding of key issues in today's global economy
- An ability to critically engage with current debates on uneven development
- An understanding of the theory – policy – reality continuum and the place of academic thought.
- Exploration of case studies of particular industrial sectors
- A consideration of the lasting impacts of COVID 19.

Module: TI 2104 - Marine Spatial Planning
Lecturer: Dr Liam Carr

Marine spatial planning is promoted as a means of managing multiple human uses of the marine environment in a more sustainable manner than other approaches. This module focuses on the historical importance and context of the marine sector in securing economic and cultural goods, critiquing various single- and multi-sector management regimes and policies. Using case studies both from Ireland and abroad, this module covers: social-ecological systems, the social construction of the marine environment, ocean governance and citizenship, drivers of marine spatial planning, ecosystem-based management, and the collaborative planning of marine resources.

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Identify formal and informal institutions which structure human uses of the marine environment
- Interrogate formal and informal institutions through the application of appropriate geographic theories and concepts to develop an informed and intellectually grounded critique
- Apply geographic theories and concepts to marine and coastal social-ecological systems
- Creatively analyse, synthesise and present results and conclusions effectively and comprehensively, both orally and in written form

- Contribute effectively to the existing body of geographical and environmental knowledge through discussion, reading interpretation and analyses, and formative writing
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Module: TI 2108 Introduction to Palaeoclimatology

Lecturer: Dr Aaron Potito

This module introduces students to the field of palaeoclimatology (the study of past climates). Climate change is not a modern phenomenon, as Earth's systems are dynamic and rarely stable over extended periods of time. Climate variability occurs across multiple spatial and temporal scales, but we generally lack long enough scientific or historical records to directly measure most long-term patterns of climate change. Palaeoclimatology fills this void by offering evidence of environmental conditions across timescales, providing a broader context for studying modern environmental phenomena.

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of palaeoclimatology as it relates to modern environmental systems
- Critique the array of methodologies which are used in reconstructing past environments
- Assess long-term human-environment interactions through time
- Apply theoretical concepts in a real-world context through hands-on lab-based instruction

Designing Futures

Semester 1

- **[BSS2103 Introduction to Sustainability: Tuesday 9-11am](#)** Venue: Alice Perry Building, CE342
(Module Co-Ordinator: Gesche Kindermann, School of Natural Science)

Semester 2

- **AJ2114 Communicating Through Storytelling:** (venue & time TBC)
(Module Co-ordinator: Tom Felle, Discipline of Journalism and Communication)

Module: BSS2103) Introduction to Sustainability 1 (semester 1)

Lecturer: Gesche Kindermann, School of Natural Sciences (gesche.kindermann@nuigalway.ie)

The module is future oriented and explores the concept of sustainability in the face of global change. It encompasses a wide range of theory and practice, including social, economic and environmental issues, and links international examples to local context and relevance. The module will challenge students to critically reflect on sustainability and current approaches to sustainability.

Module: (AJ2114) Communicating through Storytelling

Lecturer Tom Felle, Discipline of Journalism and Communication (tom.felle@nuigalway.ie)

Writing well is a foundational skill for graduates, and professional communication capacities are now essential requirements for the working world. This module will develop your understanding of communication giving you the capacity to weigh evidence, distil and prioritise information cogently, tell effective stories, make persuasive presentations and influence decisions. Module activities include lectures, practical classes, group work and an industry-based project. You will develop your digital literacy capacities via practical workshops.

Further Info:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/designingfutures/personalisedstudentjourney/transdisciplinarymodules/forstudents/>

**** Please note that any students who are considering applying for the Postgraduate Masters in Education, Geography can't guarantee the designing future modules will be accepted by the Teaching Council of Ireland. It is the responsibility of students to ensure they have enough geography specific modules completed ****