



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work – Semester One Module Options

Welcome to the module options for study abroad students studying at Queen's University Belfast from September 2020, for the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

The School of Social Science, Education and Social Work has a strong emphasis on professional training in education and social work. In addition, the School is training the next generation of social scientists in the areas of sociology, criminology and social policy. More information about the school can be found on our [website](#).

Please make note of the module code and the module title of the modules that you are interested in for when you fill out the [online application form](#). The level of study typically refers to the year of study a student would usually take the module in, though all modules listed are available for study abroad students. Higher level modules will sometimes require evidence of previous study.

If you have any questions about the modules available or the selection process please email AHSSabroad@qub.ac.uk and we will be happy to help.

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Criminology

Introducing Criminology

CRM1001 – Level 1

The module offers a general introduction to criminology and some of the key debates and topics in the subject. The first half of the course (weeks 1 – 6) introduces some essential background materials for those pursuing study in criminology including an overview of historical and contemporary crime and crime control, the workings of the criminal justice system, sources of information on crime and criminals and an introduction to some theoretical concepts in criminology. The second half of the course (weeks 8-11) introduces a number of key debates and issues in criminology – many of which can and will be studied in greater depth in second and third year criminology modules.

Criminological Theory

CRM2001 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This course introduces students to the main theories of crime and deviance. It takes a historical approach to exploring the main developments in criminological theory.

Crime and Society

CRM2005 – Level 2

The module is about crime, which is often defined in terms of behaviour that violates the criminal law. However, this legalistic definition needs to be examined more critically. For example, why are some harmful behaviours treated as criminal whereas others are not? How do class and gender affect involvement in crime and the response to criminality? Why do we focus on 'street crime' when 'suite' and 'state' crime are often much more damaging? The primary objective of this module is to challenge students' perceptions about crime and criminals. In doing so, the module is organised under three broad sub-headings: Street Crime, Suite Crime and State Crime. This module is global in scope and draws largely on scholarly research and informed journalistic accounts to help students develop a broader critical awareness of crime and society.

Punishment, Penal Policy and Prison

CRM3001 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The aim of this module is to provide students with a critical understanding of the nature and issues surrounding punishment, penal policy and imprisonment. There is a concentration on the use of imprisonment, and the problems associated therewith, but other forms of punishment (or 'treatment' of offenders) are also considered. The module will explore the theories behind punishment – the justification for applying penal sanctions to transgressors of the criminal law – before focussing on how the use of prison has come to dominate the penal landscape in many modern societies. Some of the specific issues associated with the modern use of prison will also be explored. For example, issues such as prison violence, order and control, accountability, equality and diversity and the effects of imprisonment. Alternatives to imprisonment will also be considered in light of more general issues in the sociology of punishment and control. Throughout the course issues will be considered in terms of international (and historic) comparisons and contexts with, where applicable, specific reference to Northern Ireland will be made.

Psychological Perspectives on Crime

CRM3005 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module examines the contribution of psychology to our understanding of crime, criminals and the operation of the Criminal Justice System. The course is organised around three basic themes. The first theme considers psychological theories of crime and offending behaviour. It will examine how neuropsychology, psychological characteristics and psychological disorders help explain patterns of offending behaviour. It will also consider the social psychology of group offending. The second theme considers the psychological dimensions of more serious and violent crime, including murder, sexual violence and terrorism. The final theme considers the intersection of psychology and the criminal justice system, from the initial investigation of crimes through to the sentencing and rehabilitation of offenders.

Sociology and Social Policy

Rethinking Society

SOC1001 – Level 1

This module offers a general introduction to the discipline of sociology for those with no experience of studying sociology before. Its primary objective is to initiate students to sociological thinking. Sociology does not rely on our subjective experience and general ideas commonly shared within the society (beliefs, customs, traditions, values, norms); its critical way of thinking and its methods allow us to discover aspects of social life that most people are unaware of. This will be done through a diversity of topics such as social class, suicide, race, gender, disability, globalisation, violence and other social phenomena. The module will provide a background for those intending to study sociology in the second and third years, but also acts as a stand-alone sociology course for those who do not intend to study it further.

Visualising the Social World

SQM1001 – Level 1 – Availability for Study Abroad students determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to departmental consent.

The module introduces students to the visual presentation of quantitative data. By establishing a basic working knowledge of measurement procedures, data sources, and appropriate conventions in quantitative data visualisation, it introduces students to basic graphic functions in spreadsheet and geographical information system packages. Students will gain experience in the selection of appropriate graphics for different kinds of variables, in the construction of basic datasets from secondary data sources, and in the mapping of spatial data.

Introducing Social Policy

SPY1004 – Level 1 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The module offers a general introduction to Social Policy as an applied academic subject. Students will be encouraged to take a broad perspective on how social policies are implemented by examining political, economic and social perspectives on human needs and wants. The second half of the course introduces social security, taxes, benefits and their implications for citizenship. The course offers a useful entry point to Social Policy; piquing students' interest in core theories and principles which they will explore in more detail in second and third year social policy modules

The Power of Social Theory

SOC2001 – Level 2

This module provides an introduction to social theory. The development of sociological thought is traced from initial formulations in the late 18th c. through to the work of contemporary theorists. As well as explaining the nature of various sociological perspectives, the module will show how these can be used to help us understand particular events and problems that occur in the social world.

Quantitative Research Skills

SOC2004 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Methods of quantitative data analysis, involving the use of computer packages for statistical analysis.

Welfare in Theory and Practice

SPY2002 – Level 2 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This course reviews key concepts and traditions in political philosophy and social theory which have affected the development of a number of welfare regimes internationally and historically.

Modern Families: Intimate and Personal Relationships

SOC3028 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This module will focus on the sociological theory and research on the family and it will do so by examining both the scholarship on the family and the place of the family in different European societies. The history and current state of the family in Northern Ireland will be examined in the immediate context of family studies in both the UK and Ireland and in the broader context of other European societies. Both theoretical and empirical work will be considered.

Norms and Social Change

SOC3050 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This module explores some of the central concerns of sociology, namely the interplay between social norms, institutionally anchored social roles, and complex and contested identities. The focus is on theoretical approaches and debates as they address a number of social phenomena, including the dynamics of social stigma, gender, family life, work, collective/cultural identities, honour codes and rationales for punishment (the precise range of topics may vary from year to year).

Social Identity: Differences and Inequalities

SQM3003 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to departmental consent.

In this module we will explore various aspects of identity, difference and social inequalities across a range of contexts. We will focus on the nature and extent of major social and cultural inequalities within society, in areas such as education, health, class, ethnicity, gender, age and social capital. The module examines how inequality not only shapes societies, but also affects our everyday lives. By considering various theoretical models of how inequality is maintained and reproduced, this module encourages students to challenge both classical theories (for example, those which see inequality as the result of class conflict) and more current arguments (for example, those which see class as of declining significance in the light of other social divisions such as gender or age), by engaging with empirical evidence.

Disability and Society

SPY3014 – Level 3 – Pre-requisites will apply Students may need to show evidence of previous study and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This module examines the different positions of disabled and non-disabled men and women in Britain and Ireland in relation to social rights and public services. Students will consider how social protection systems, (social security and labour market policies) and other social policies produce these different outcomes. Students will also examine institutional responses to existing forms of disability discrimination, disadvantage and inequality. Students will be introduced to the social model of disability and consider its implications for policy and practice.

Social Work

Preparation for Practice Learning

SWK1003 – Level 1 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

The module will introduce students to skills and methods for social work practice. Lectures will introduce students to the basic knowledge, values and skills required at each stage of the social work process. In skills workshops students will put their learning into practice using role play, video and audio equipment. These workshops will focus on individual skills including student's ability to communicate effectively and to develop professional working relationships. In theory tutorials students will develop their knowledge of the application of social work theory and methods to practice using case studies and group discussion activities.

Law for Social Workers

SWK1004 – Level 1 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

Students will acquire an understanding of the legislation underpinning key areas of social work practice in Northern Ireland. It will also provide consideration of the current procedural and practice issues faced by social workers in implementing the legislation. Where possible, each area of legislation will be addressed by speakers from the legal and social work professions. Students will have an opportunity to apply and deepen their understanding of legislation through the use of case studies.

Introduction to Social Work

SWK1005 – Level 1 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

This module will provide: an introduction to social work knowledge, skills and values; provide the opportunity to explore the context of social work practice in Northern Ireland and internationally; and outline the relevance of sociology, psychology and social policy to social work.

Social Work in Context

SWK2006 – Level 2 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

This module will provide an overview of a range of core social work theories and methods of intervention with an emphasis on the context in which they are used. It will provide students with a tool to develop critical understanding of the moral and antioppressive dimensions to professional practice interventions. Students will be enabled to develop a critical perspective in values and AOP with an emphasis on working in a diverse contexts and settings.

Law for Social Workers

SWK2003 – Level 2 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

The sequence is organised to enable students to acquire an understanding of the legislation underpinning key areas of social work practice in Northern Ireland. It will also provide consideration of the current procedural and practice issues faced by social workers in implementing the legislation. Where possible, each area of legislation will be addressed by speakers from the legal and social work professions. Students will have an opportunity to apply and deepen their understanding of legislation through the use of case studies.

Social Work with Children and Families

SWK3003 – Level 3 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

The module will introduce students to social work with children and families. The three main areas of child care social work; family support, child protection and looked after children will be described and subjected to analysis and critique. Students will also be encouraged to explore the ethical dimensions of practice and relate all aspects of professional practice to the research base as well as to the social policy and legal contexts. Seminars will offer students the opportunity to integrate the dimensions of knowledge, skills and values and examine models of intervention as a basis for acquiring the range of skills necessary for work with children and families.

Social Work in Adult Services

SWK3004 – Level 3 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

This module will introduce students to social work with adults. A range of adult services social work settings will be explored and critically analysed, including mental health, learning disability, physical disability, and older people. Students will be encouraged to explore the ethical dimensions of practice and relate all aspects of professional activity to the research base as well as social policy and legal contexts. Seminars will offer students an opportunity to integrate the dimensions of knowledge and values and examine models of intervention as a basis for acquiring the range of skills necessary for work with adults.

Social Work in Criminal Justice and the Courts

SWK3008 – Level 3 – Only available to students who are enrolled on Social Work degree at home institution.

Students will: become familiar with policy, legislation, research and methods that inform the social work role and social work intervention in the criminal justice context. • Explore the theoretical perspectives informing social work intervention in a criminal justice context • Develop skills in the critical examination of theory and its application to practice. • Examine their own value base in relation to this area and have considered ethical issues in relation to practice • Become familiar with the court structure in Northern Ireland • Develop awareness of court processes in civil and criminal proceedings • Develop skills in presenting written and verbal evidence to courts • Become familiar with the Children Order Advisory Committee Best Practice Guidance on Court Proceedings and the PBNI Standards for Pre-Sentence Reports