

STAGE 3

Module	Modern Society
Course code	BAJH-MSY
Credits	10
Important Notes	Available to students with a background in media, political science, and/or sociology.
Allocation of marks	50% continuous assessment 50% final examination

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of key issues in national and international politics and economics.
2. Critically analyse the institutions of global and European governance.
3. Critically compare development patterns across emerging economies.
4. Express a comprehensive understanding of the role played by civil society organisations in modern politics.

Module Aims

The module aims to give learners an understanding of the working of the international political order and how it is related to the global economic system. It also seeks to give them an understanding of how the political system at a regional and a national level works and how these interact with the wider society.

Module Objectives

Having studied Understanding Society and Contemporary Society & Political Systems at stages one and two of the programme, the overall objective here is to build on this underpinning knowledge and to facilitate learners in attaining a well rounded grasp of some of the main political and economic forces which shape modern Irish, European and global society.

Module Curriculum

Topic: The US-led World Order in Disarray:

Examines the **political** and **economic** underpinnings of US power and asking whether it is capable of maintaining its position of world leadership or whether a narrow pursuit of its own self-interests will undermine global stability.

Topic: The European Union in Crisis:

Examines the origins and development of the Euro crisis and its implications for the future of the European Union, and indeed for the world order more generally.

Topic: The Rise of East Asia:

Looks at the origins of Asian growth, and its diversity, and asking whether it can overcome existing difficulties and strains to achieve a closer economic and political integration in the twenty first century.

Topic: Global South:

Regression and revolt: explores the extremely uneven patterns of development across the globe over the last half century and the consequent high levels of political and social instability in those regions where development has been effectively blocked.

Topic: Irish Constitutionalism:

The background to and ongoing development of the 1937 Irish Constitution. Constitutional separation of powers; the role of the judiciary and the citizenry in the development of the Irish Constitution.

Topic: Civil Society:

There's more to politics than political parties: What is 'civil society' and 'global civil society'; what are its characteristics and historical development; Global Civil Society as a concept of resistance to dominant ideologies; additionally, a skeptical view of the whole concept of global civil society.

Topic: The Irish Economy:

Understanding the swing from a booming economy and 'the most globalised country in the world' to losing economic sovereignty: Where does money come from; what is economic growth and what is it for; how did Ireland achieve the highest growth rates in Europe? Differing views on corporate tax avoidance; explaining the impact of collateralised debt obligations and credit default swaps and their connection to the Irish housing bubble.

Topic: How Europe Works:

With 500 million people and the world's largest economy, European Union citizens live longer, are richer, better educated and healthier than anyone else in the world; while in EU-wide surveys, the Irish are consistently the most pro-European Union. But how does it work? This topic examines the duties and powers of the three main EU institutions, the democratic deficit debate and (briefly) the development of the treaties.