

In the face of climate change, environmental pollution, growing inequality and extremism, the time is ripe for new approaches and consciousness about how we exist in this world, and with one another. Thankfully, new ways of thinking and movements are emerging. Deep Ecology, Systems Thinking, concepts like planetary boundaries, Kate Raworth s Doughnut Economics , post-growth, Gross National Happiness, Buen Vivir, all offer us new ways of thinking and promise for addressing the challenges of the 21st century. At the same time people are coming together to build incredible grassroots movements to tackle systemic injustices.

This course will offer students an introduction to these new ways of thinking and grassroots movements, which are emerging across the globe. Engagement with these developments is both inspiring and gives us hope of real change.

The course material will focus on the environmental and social dimension as a lens to examine current challenges faced in our global societies. It will offer an introduction to new perspectives and paradigms and explore how these are reflected in social and environmental movements. Through this, we will enhance our understanding of the interconnectedness of current issues, gain new insights and enhance our ability to develop holistic, just and sustainable solutions.

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<div style="text-align:center;"><p>Curricular information is subject to change</p></div>

What will I learn?

Learning Outcomes:<p>Through undertaking this course students will gain a deeper understanding of environmental and social issues and how they intersect and interrelate. Engagement with the course materials aims to specifically enhance students skills in critical analysis. They will be able to identify and critically engage with various discourses on environmental and social sustainability. In particular they will have knowledge of the existing dominant and alternative approaches to addressing environmental and social issues, and have the analytical tools to identify the assumptions and theories that underpin particular policy programs and approaches. Furthermore students will gain a broad knowledge of the emerging theories and movements.

With the specific aim of nurturing new perspectives, the course readings will include non-Western academics, People of Colour, women and indigenous communities. As such, a central identified learning outcome is that biases are tackled and students gain greater appreciation and respect for the writings of marginalised groups.

By the end of this course, students should have gained greater insight into the complexity and interconnectedness of the current crises and required holistic solutions. Most importantly, through engagement with different perspectives and emerging movements, students will feel empowered to positively contribute to addressing the challenges of the 21st century. </p>

Indicative Module Content:<p>climate change, environmental pollution, growing inequality and extremism
Deep Ecology, Systems Thinking, Doughnut Economics, Gross National Happiness</p>

How will I learn?

Student Effort Hours:

Student Effort Type	Hours
Lectures	24
Autonomous Student Learning	101
Total	125

Am I eligible to take this module?

<div class="subHeadCB">Requirements, Exclusions and Recommendations</div>

<p>Not applicable to this module.</p>

<div class="subHeadCB">Module Requisites and Incompatibles</div>

Not applicable to this module.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Strategy

Description	Timing	Open Book Exam	Component Scale	Must Pass Component	% of Final Grade
Continuous Assessment: Response papers and a short written work	Unspecified	n/a	Graded	No	50
Group Project: Group work with personal assessment component	Unspecified	n/a	Graded	No	50

Carry forward of passed components

No

What happens if I fail?

Resit In	Terminal Exam
Autumn	No

Assessment feedback

Feedback Strategy/Strategies

* Group/class feedback, post-assessment

How will my Feedback be Delivered?

Not yet recorded.

Reading List

UCD Course Search

Addressing 21st Century Challenges: Understanding Complexity, New Insights and Emerging Movements (POL30600)

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Addressing 21st Century Challenges: Understanding Complexity, New Insights and Emerging Movements (POL30600)

Subject:

Politics

College:

Social Sciences & Law

School:

Politics & Int Relations

Level:

3 (Degree)

Credits:

5.0

Trimester:

Spring

Module Coordinator:

Assoc Professor James Cross

Mode of Delivery:

Face-to-Face

<dt>Internship Module:</dt><dd>No</dd>

<dt>How will I be graded?</dt>
<dd>Letter grades </dd>

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