# **Course Module Information**

### **TI229: Political &amp; Cutural Geography: Identity, Race &amp; the Nation**

##### **Semester 1 | Credits: 5**

This module provides a critical analysis of key concepts in cultural and political geography. It examines relevant political theories to provide 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 the “war on terror” discourse. 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.

(Language of instruction: English)

##### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Provide a focused analysis of the links between nation-building and the fostering of discrimination and disparity in themes across political and cultural geography.
2. Appreciate and apply geographic theoretical concepts to better understand the constant struggles encountered by those striving for the celebration of diversity and difference.
3. Advance an understanding of how various discourses develop to legitimise and justify political action and highlight the key role which geographers play in their deconstruction.
4. Read critically, apply greater analytical skills and write informed and well-articulated, insightful arguments.

##### **Assessments**

* Written Assessment (60%)
* Continuous Assessment (40%)

##### **Module Director**

* CHRISTINA COSTELLO HAVERTY: [Research Profile](http://www.nuigalway.ie/our-research/people/christinacostellohaverty/) | Email

##### **Lecturers / Tutors**

* KATHY REILLY: [Research Profile](http://www.nuigalway.ie/our-research/people/kathyreilly/)

##### **Reading List**

1. "A Companion to Political Geography" by J. Agnew et al. (eds)  
   Publisher: Blackwell
2. "Cultural Geography: A Critical Dictionary of Concepts" by D. Atkinson et al. (eds)  
   Publisher: I.B. Tauris
3. "Political Geography: Territory, State and Society" by K. Cox  
   Publisher: Blackwell
4. "Global Geopolitics: A Critical Introduction" by K. Dodds  
   Publisher: Pearson
5. "Modern Historical Geographies" by B. Graham & C. Nash (eds)  
   Publisher: Longman
6. "Postcolonial Geographies" by A. Blunt & C. McEwan (eds)  
   Publisher: Continuum

The above information outlines module TI229: "Political &amp; Cutural Geography: Identity, Race &amp; the Nation" and is valid from 2017 onwards.

Note: Module offerings and details may be subject to change.