

Thinking about Feminism “across the course”

It's really important to look beyond just the narrow 'Learning Outcome' on Gender and the Patriarchy. Increasingly, the essays are focusing on how different parts of the course interact, so below you'll find some potential links to consider before you move off the topic...

Representation in the Irish Political System

The issue of Women in politics in Ireland can be divisive. Do you support 'Gender Quotas' for candidates? Why might a feminist oppose them? Does the phrase "You can't be what you can't see" help you to frame your "I" sentence?

Human Rights - CEDAW

The Convention on the Eradication of Discrimination Against Women is a major Human Right Treaty and provides lots of useful data for thinking about Ireland's status as a patriarchy. Pay particular attention to the "Shadow Reports" from the review!

The SDGs

Gender equality has its own dedicated goal – SDG 5. So that means that every time you're asked about Sustainable Development, you are perfectly free to include any data in this area. In particular, don't forget to show how the "Targets" from the SDG link to the course.

Kathleen Lynch

While Walby is always going to be your main 'Key Thinker' here, it is impossible to think of Lynch without the gender aspects of her ideas. You might think of Walby as being universally applicable, but Lynch as being particularly useful for the "Irish Perspective" on the topic.

Eco-Feminism - Vandana Shiva

Although writing from a very different geographic perspective, Shiva's perspective can be used to highlight the effectiveness and agency that women can have, particularly in the developing world). What would she say to a female organic farmer in Ireland?

Where else do we see links to
Gender and the Patriarchy
on the Pol-Soc Course

The Irish Constitution

Your focus here will be on Article 41.2 of the constitution – "to the neglect of her duties in the home"... Would you support a referendum on this topic? What way would you vote? Why? What valid counter arguments can you think of?

Violence and Coercive Control

The Femicide Report provides stark reading when it comes to gender violence. The Clodagh Howe case from 2016 & Aisling Murphy 2022, would be excellent case studies. How might "Toxic Masculinity" give an *alternative/comparative* view.

Gender Pay Gap

Irish Legislation in this area may be upcoming. Should a private company have to divulge this information to the public? What about the "Gender Bonus Gap" (12%), or the "Gender Pension Gap" (35%). How might they help you to support your response?

Remember, you don't necessarily have to be asked specifically about "Gender" or "The Patriarchy" to include some of this material in your responses. They can be very useful ways of actively presenting an "alternative or comparative" perspective in your essay. There are very few topics to which a gender perspective couldn't unearth some interesting ideas. But remember, don't allow an essay to get hijacked by gender. It might look like you've tried to "shoe-horn" an essay you've learned off the question asked in an awkward way... There's nothing worse, when correcting an essay, than seeing this happen!