RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Canterbury
Kent was ranked as one of the top 20 universities in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2015. All its academic schools produce world-class research and it has a reputation for excellent teaching.

Religious Studies at Kent is taught within the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL), one of the largest schools in the University. In the National Student Survey 2013, SECL scored 90% for student satisfaction, with many of its subject areas ranking in the top ten among UK universities.

Religious Studies at Kent has an excellent reputation; it is ranked in the top 20 by The Guardian University Guide 2015.

**World-leading research**

In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, a significant proportion of research in Religious Studies at Kent was rated as world leading or of international standing. Our academics are engaged with research at the forefront of their fields, and their research interests cover a wide range of areas, from new understandings of Hindu culture to religion and culture, and the sociology of the sacred.

**Inspirational teaching**

In The Guardian University Guide 2015, Religious Studies was 3rd in the UK for staff-student ratio.

We have high standards in teaching and support and our research informs our teaching so that you are learning at the cutting edge of your discipline. We tackle Religious Studies from a range of perspectives, and encourage you to think independently about important philosophical and social questions. This is one of the reasons why we welcome students from a diversity of subject backgrounds; an A level in Religious Studies is not necessary.

Religious Studies involves investigating and discussing religious ideas, experiences, practices and institutions. Like any other academic subject, Religious Studies looks at matters objectively and critically, but with respect for the beliefs and traditions of others. You may identify with some of these beliefs and traditions – although, of course, it is not necessary to be ‘religious’ to study religion.

**Wide-ranging programme**

We offer a flexible programme of study covering both traditional and contemporary issues. Our degree reflects the central place of religion in human life and thought – some modules provide introductions to major world religions; some investigate philosophical and comparative themes within religious studies; and others explore connections between religion and particular aspects of human culture – psychology, science, ethics, literature and film. Religious Studies, being itself multidisciplinary, also makes for ideal combinations with other subjects. See p19 for joint honours degrees on offer.
Supportive community

For the most part you are taught in small groups, which gives everyone the opportunity to contribute. We welcome student feedback on the development of the department and its programmes. Kent also has a number of student societies that may be of particular interest to students of Religious Studies, including Buddhist, Church of England, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Quaker groups. All of these societies put on a variety of events for members.

Within SECL we have a dedicated student support team, who are able to provide pastoral care and help you with your academic needs. The University also offers a variety of support services, for details see: www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing or www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

Excellent location

The campus is in the city of Canterbury, a location steeped in history and of significance to Christians since the arrival of St Augustine as a missionary in 597 AD. Canterbury Cathedral is part of a designated world heritage site and is valued for its architecture and its artefacts as well as its religious history.

A global outlook

Kent is known as the UK’s European university due to its proximity to the European mainland and its links with many top-ranking European institutions. Kent encourages students to place their studies in an international context: 41% of our academics are from overseas and there are students from 149 nationalities represented on campus. This gives you plenty of opportunities to discuss issues with people from different backgrounds and cultures.

A successful future

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic climate. As part of your studies at Kent, we help you to acquire key transferable skills, which are considered essential for a successful graduate career. The University’s careers service offers help and advice on the options open to you. For more information see p8 or go to www.kent.ac.uk/employability
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our Canterbury campus provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities. The campus is within easy reach of London and mainland Europe.

Excellent study resources
The Templeman Library provides a wealth of resources and services to support your study and research across all subject areas. Its extensive print and electronic collections are aimed at supporting the courses and subject areas taught at Kent. There is an extensive range of electronic resources including e-journals, e-books, databases, reference resources and newspaper archives. Integrated search and study tools, including the Library catalogue, reading lists and virtual learning environment help you discover and access the best resources for your studies.

Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service provides information and advice on all aspects of effective learning and study skills, and is available to all students from the time they arrive at the University. See www.kent.ac.uk/learning for more information.

Beautiful green campus
Our campus has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, both lawns and wooded areas, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral. For entertainment, the campus has its own cinema, theatre and student nightclub. It has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. There are many restaurants, cafés and bars on campus and there’s a sports centre and gym.

Everything you need on campus is within walking distance including a general store, an off-licence, a bookshop, banks, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s a 25-minute walk or a short bus-ride into Canterbury.

Attractive location
Canterbury is a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs, as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is under an hour away by high-speed train.

DID YOU KNOW?
Canterbury is consistently rated as one of the safest university cities in England and Wales in The Complete University Guide.
Josh Gardner is in the final year of the BA (Hons) in Religious Studies with an Approved Year Abroad.

Why did you choose to take Religious Studies at Kent?
I wanted to study something that was philosophical but allowed for a wide variety of perspectives. I found that the Religious Studies department at Kent is remarkable in this sense, supporting a range of different interests. The degree here covers and combines several disciplinary areas and is relevant to all kinds of contemporary debates.

How would you describe your course?
The choice of modules is very good. So, for instance, you could study religion through looking at literature, economics, philosophy, sociology, or psychology. That’s given me the opportunity to tailor my interests throughout my degree. Within the modules there’s a lot of scope too. For a module like Religion and Film, you can choose which films you want to write about. And when you choose your dissertation you are completely free to come up with your own research question, as long as it relates to religion in some way. My dissertation is on theatre, performance and religion.

Which areas have inspired you the most?
This year I took a module called Psychology and Religion which I found fascinating. It looks at the ways in which the two disciplines have engaged with each other over the last 100 years or so. Psychology examines human beings and imagines what human beings are, and that’s a cultural space that was occupied by religion for a very long time.

What other aspects of studying at Kent have you enjoyed?
The year abroad! It was one of the best experiences of my life. I can’t understand why more people don’t do it. I took Spanish as a wild module in my first year, continued it in the second year, and that meant I could take a year abroad in Spain as part of my degree. I went to a university in Andalucia and the Erasmus scheme paid my tuition fees and gave me a small grant too, which went quite a long way in southern Spain.

Any plans for the future?
I’ve become very interested in the theatre as a medium, developing projects and working in applied theatre. After graduation, I have a place at Queen Mary, University of London to study for an MA in Theatre and Performance. It’s part theory, part practice, so I will be developing practical work based on the theory.

Any advice for someone who is considering your course?
Do it! It’s a great opportunity.

For more details on studying abroad as part of your degree, go to www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job. Kent is consistently in the top 20 in the UK for graduate starting salaries.

Good career prospects
According to employment statistics, Kent graduates are doing better than ever in the changeable job market. Six months after graduation in 2013, only 6% of Kent graduates were without a job or study opportunity.

Religious Studies graduates move into a variety of careers: law, travel, advertising, personnel, diplomacy, publishing, journalism, the media and teaching. Many go on to postgraduate study or professional training, sometimes after a period of employment. Employers value the independent and critical thinking demonstrated by Religious Studies graduates, along with the insights into human ideals and motivations they have acquired.

Gain transferable skills
At Kent, we help you to acquire key skills that are highly valued by employers. Through your Religious Studies programme, you develop your abilities in many areas – getting to grips with challenging ideas, writing well, gaining confidence and experience in expressing your ideas to others. All of these are important skills and ones that we help you with during your degree.

Careers advice
Kent’s Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, apply for jobs, write a good CV and perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate. For more information on what the Service offers go to: www.kent.ac.uk/employability

Classroom modules
We have developed innovative classroom modules that allow you to combine your studies with work experience in a school. The modules count as credit towards your degree and offer an insight into teaching as a career. Even if teaching is not your chosen profession, the module provides a chance to gain work experience in a professional environment – something that will enhance your CV and is likely to appeal to a range of potential employers.

Placement year
Students in Religious Studies have the opportunity to take a placement year as part of their degree. This allows you to spend a year in the workplace, between Stages 2 and 3, giving you the chance to get work experience, acquire new skills and gain insight into your career options. The University provides you with support in finding a placement and monitors your progress during the placement. After graduation, this experience is a valuable asset on your CV and can enhance your career opportunities. For details, see www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement
Kieran Hart graduated with a first-class degree in Religious Studies from Kent in 2012, and he currently works as a teacher.

Why did you choose Kent?
Kent offered a great campus and a small, friendly city to be in. I liked the look of the Park Wood accommodation and I’d had some great reviews of the University from friends who were already studying there. The course attracted me too – the modules on offer looked really interesting through all three years, and they met the requirements for the PGCE in Secondary Religious Education that I was aiming for. The course was also well supported through IT facilities and in the library.

The Open Day helped me to decide. I went along to a sample lecture on ‘Paradoxes’ and I was hooked. It was great to speak to members of the Department, so that I knew what I was signing up for.

How would you describe your degree programme?
My degree programme was really broad: I could choose modules that covered almost every topic imaginable, that was related to religion. And I had the option to choose wild modules as well, which was good for me, as I could branch out into history and philosophy.

And what about the lecturers?
The lecturers on the course were brilliant at delivering engaging and interesting information, as well as being passionate about their specialist areas. I especially valued the feedback that I received on the work that I produced: I think this is part of the reason that I achieved a first-class degree.

What social activities or extra-curricular activities did you get involved with at Kent?
I was an active member of the Fencing Society and would highly recommend it to everyone. From beginner to expert, the range of people and abilities is massive. I also really enjoyed the social side of the society; it created a real community experience.

How did your degree lay the foundations for your chosen career path?
I deliberately chose the degree at Kent as I knew it would provide me with a solid foundation for moving on to a PGCE programme where I studied to become a teacher. The degree also set me up for further academic work through developing my writing abilities.

Could you describe your career path since leaving Kent?
Since leaving Kent I gained a place at one of the best teacher training institutes in England and moved straight into a career as a Religious Studies teacher in a secondary school.

Could you describe a typical day at work?
A typical day in my current role involves a lot of planning and delivering lessons, and assessing work. I get a lot of satisfaction from my job as every day is different and it is always presenting me with new challenges and opportunities.

What are your future plans and aspirations?
In the future, I aim to become an outstanding teacher and perhaps return to academic study to gain a Master’s or a PhD qualification.

Do you have any other happy memories of Kent that you would like to share with us?
The memory that really sticks in my mind is walking across the campus in the brilliant sunshine with students all around enjoying themselves. Kent is also where I met my partner. We lived next door to each other in first year and, alongside my degree, it is the best thing that happened to me at University.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
Enjoy yourself. Make the most of the opportunities you have to try new things and meet new people. In the second and third years, really knuckle down so that you can get the best degree you are capable of, and the career that you want afterwards.
Not sure which programme to choose? 
Here’s a quick guide to the degrees on offer.

Single honours
Religious Studies is available as a single honours degree. Our single honours programme is varied and covers religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Further modules cover areas such as religion and psychology.

Joint honours
You can also combine Religious Studies with another subject. Joint honours degrees on offer include Religious Studies and...
- Asian Studies
- Classical & Archaeological Studies
- Comparative Literature
- Drama
- English and American Literature
- Film
- French
- German
- History
- Philosophy.

For details of UCAS codes and entry requirements, see p19. To download a leaflet in your joint subject area, go to www.kent.ac.uk/studying/leaflets

International students
If you need to extend your existing academic qualifications or ability in English to be able to study at university level, Kent’s one-year International Foundation Programme (IFP) gives you the opportunity to do so. The IFP can provide progression to our degrees in Religious Studies; for details, see www.kent.ac.uk/internationalpathways/ifp

Placement year
Students in Religious Studies have the opportunity to take a placement year as part of their degree. It involves a year in the workplace between Stages 2 and 3. For more details, see p8.

Study abroad
Students have the opportunity to spend time abroad as part of their degree. This involves spending a year studying in another country between Stages 2 and 3 (or sometimes a term). Students are based at universities which teach in English, unless they have the skills to study in another language. For details, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Teaching and assessment
You are taught mostly in small groups with most modules involving either two or three hours per week in class and individual consultations with teachers, as well as sessions on computing and library skills.

Some modules are assessed by 100% coursework, others by a combination of formal examination and coursework. Seminar participation will also be taken into account in the assessment of modules.

Further information
If you would like further information about our Religious Studies degree programmes please email: secl@kent.ac.uk
Stage 1 represents your first year of full-time study.

All single honours students take the following module:
• What is Religion?

You then choose at least two modules from the list below:
• From Eden to the End of the World
• Gods of the Desert: Judaism and Islam
• Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism
• Religion and Sex
• Religion in the Contemporary World.

You may also choose modules from a wide range available in the Faculty of Humanities.

Joint honours students take at least three modules from the list above, plus the required modules in their other subject.

Modules: Stage 1
From Eden to the End of the World
The Bible is not a single book, but a library; it spans the literatures of 800 years. The subjects covered include not just theological concepts, but politics, philosophy, cultural history and myth. Here you learn to understand the broader literacy of the Bible, whether you are familiar with its texts through church or have never read it. It gives a basic overview of the story and contexts of the books of the Bible from Genesis to the Apocalypse of John, or from the Garden of Eden to the ‘end of the world’.

Gods of the Desert: Judaism and Islam
Judaism and Islam are two of the most important religions today. In this module, you investigate the beliefs and practices of Jews and Muslims. Topics in Judaism include the life and work of the Patriarchs, the concept of the ‘chosen people’, the Promised Land, the Torah, synagogue, Jewish festivals and the Jewish home. In the case of Islam, topics include the life of Muhammad, the Five Pillars, the Qur’an and Hadith, Sunni and Shi’ite Muslims, Sufism, the Shariah and Islamic contributions to the arts and sciences.

Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism
The Vedas, the scriptures of Hinduism, were composed over 2000 years ago. This module begins with a study of the most interesting features of the Vedic and post-Vedic tradition: the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita and the polytheism of the Mahabharata. You go on to study the contrasting philosophical positions of the Theravada and the Mahayana Buddhist traditions using materials from the Pali canon and several Sanskrit Sutras. You focus particularly on the variety of interpretations of the Buddhist ‘no-self’ doctrine and concept of enlightenment, as well as the meaning and function of the Buddha’s career, and the teachings of Zen.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
STUDYING AT STAGE 1 (CONT)

Religion and Sex
Sex and the body are frequently the focus of religions. This module examines how religion and sex are presented in both ancient traditions and modern commercial contexts and explores why sex is central to the religious life. The module takes a series of case studies in both Eastern and Western traditions to show different historical aspects of religion and sex. The aim is to show how religion both promotes and conceals sex and the ways that such issues are represented in modernity.

What is Religion?
In this module, you explore the nature of religion and examine some of the theories offered to explain its existence. Is it possible to understand a religion to which you do not belong? Are religious people always biased? Do atheists make good theologians? Can we really be objective and neutral when it comes to religion? How broad are the parameters for defining religion – could activities such as football, shopping or going to the movies be said to have a religious component to them? Reference is made to the work of a number of thinkers who have offered various, often competing, definitions of religion, including Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Émile Durkheim and Rudolf Otto.

Throughout the module, you are helped to see possible connections between these various theories and debates, as well as think about their relevance to issues and discussions taking place within contemporary society.

Religion in the Contemporary World
This module introduces you to a range of key theories and debates in the social and cultural study of contemporary religion, including modernisation, secularisation, individualisation, commodification, occulture, mediatisation, secularism, transnationalism and lived religion.
**STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3**

**Stages 2 and 3 represent your second and final years of full-time study.**

If you are taking a single honours degree, you take the following module:

- Issues in Religious Studies (taken at Stage 2).

You can then choose your optional modules from those listed below:

- Anthropology of Religion
- Christianity and Ethics
- Comparative Literature and Religion of Biblical Worlds
- Continental Philosophy of Religion
- Death of God? Christianity and the Modern World
- Gods and Government: From the Roman Empire to Tony Blair
- Hindu Religious Thought
- Indian Philosophy of Religion
- Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Foundations
- Modern Islam: Liberal and Fundamentalist Thought
- Philosophy of Religion
- Psychology and Religion
- Religion and Film
- Religious Studies and Philosophy in the Classroom (Stage 3 only)
- Religious Studies Dissertation (Stage 3 only)
- The Sacred in Contemporary Society
- Sociology of Religion
- William James: Philosopher, Psychologist and Scholar of Religion

You can also choose modules from a wide range in the Faculty of Humanities.

Those taking joint honours choose modules from those listed above and also take the required modules in their other subject.

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**Modules: Stages 2 and 3**

**Anthropology of Religion**

Anthropology is the study of people, past and present, drawing upon a variety of disciplines from the social sciences to biology. You explore the 'anthropology of religion' to gain a historical and contemporary understanding of what it means to be religious. The module examines and allows you to practise the anthropological method of rich participant observation and comparative analysis. Some of the themes covered include the foundational and contemporary issues of religious definition, ritual, belief, embodiment, rationality and relationships in both Western and non-Western contexts.

**Christianity and Ethics**

The ethics of religion has become a contentious area for discussion in recent years. This module focuses on the different ways that Augustine, Aquinas and Luther have influenced modern Christian ethics. We look at themes of war and peace, politics and social justice, the environment, and interpersonal relationships including marriage and homosexuality.

**Comparative Literature and Religion of Biblical Worlds**

The Bible is commonly thought of as a book that has got its story together, and a bastion of monotheism. We think of the Bible as the very opposite of the projects of comparative literature and comparative religion: one book, one literature, and one God. But as soon
as we start reading we discover a library (biblia) of divergent books, literatures and gods. The bulk of the ‘books’ in the Bible pre-date structures like the codex and the author. They borrow, often very explicitly, from other literatures: for example, wisdom literature and proverb collections from Egypt and Mesopotamia, Greco-Roman novels and philosophical tracts. Through a series of selected readings you critically engage with the question of the comparative, the plural and the foreigner.

Continental Philosophy of Religion
Introducing continental philosophy, this module offers an examination of the ways in which prominent 20th-century philosophers from this tradition approach fundamental questions related to religion. You look at movements and schools of thought such as phenomenology, hermeneutics, and deconstruction in relation to religion and themes of presence, being, the body, gender, alterity and narrative identity and understanding.

Death of God? Christianity and the Modern World
You examine the significance and contribution of a number of leading 19th and 20th-century theologians from a variety of denominational backgrounds. You study the work of theologians including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth and Rudolf Bultmann and among the major movements you investigate are liberation, feminist and ‘death of God’ theology. Central to our discussion is whether or not God still has relevance to today’s secular society.

Hindu Religious Thought
In this module, you evaluate the competing doctrines of salvation and paths to spiritual emancipation that have shaped the development of the Hindu religious tradition. You discuss a range of topics including: the relationship between mysticism and philosophy, mythology, magic and devotion; action and devotion as paths to salvation; types of contemplative practice; the role of the body in spiritual life; asceticism and pleasure as vehicles for spiritual liberation; the role of the guru and the nature of spiritual transmission.

Indian Philosophy of Religion
Here you explore philosophical debates and texts (in translation) of the main currents of classical Indian philosophy, focusing on Hindu and
Buddhist thought but with some reference to traditions such as Jainism. The module explores classic Indian approaches to key philosophical themes such as the nature of truth, the relationship of language and reality, cosmology and theories of causality, the nature of perception, karma and rebirth, debates about the self, the relationship of consciousness and the body, the nature of liberation and valid sources of knowledge.

**Issues in Religious Studies**

This module explores the nature of religion through an analytical and comparative approach to the subject. For instance, how does the phenomenology of religion relate to other approaches to the study of religion, such as the philosophy, psychology, sociology or anthropology of religion? The module is wide-ranging and covers the relationships between the various aspects or dimensions of religion: experience, ideas, practices and institutions. You also study the varieties of religious experience, religious art and symbolism, the nature and functions of ritual, patterns of institutional development in religions and ideas about authority and orthodoxy.

**Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Foundations**

Mahāyāna is one of the main branches of Buddhism. This module explores the central teachings, practices and sacred texts of Mahāyāna Buddhism with a focus on the first 500 years of its history. It examines the rise and

**Religion and the movies**

What could going to the movies possibly have to do with religion? In the mid-1990s, Kent lecturer Chris Deacy was considering this very question as he embarked on his PhD thesis. He wanted to examine the extent to which it was possible to study Christian theology through the medium of film – which at the time was fairly new territory. Since then, however, this field has developed rapidly. Chris now teaches the Religion and Film module at Kent and his work has recently been in the newspapers, with articles in the *Sunday Express* and *Kent on Sunday* featuring his thoughts on Darren Aronofsky’s *Noah*.

'We look at a range of films in the Religion and Film module,' says Chris, 'but we also give students the chance to study a film of their choice. They reflect on the sort of religious or spiritual themes, if any, they may find in that film. Recently students have chosen films such as *The Truman Show*, *The Green Mile*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *Avatar*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.'

The module asks questions such as: does the medium of film have the capacity to articulate religiously-orientated questions? Have biblical epics succeeded in bringing Bible stories alive to modern-day audiences? How rewarding are scholarly attempts to search for Christ-figure analogies in film? Is there anything redemptive about violent films? Are some of the functions traditionally associated with religious institutions now taken on by the film industry? Are the boundaries of what constitutes religion fixed, or do they change as society evolves?

'We’ve had some productive class discussions around the themes, beliefs and values that these movies convey,' says Chris. ‘It’s a very popular module.’
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3 (CONT)

development of Mahāyāna Buddhism in India through analysis of its key sacred literature and philosophical schools, as well as its subsequent spread to East and North Asia.

Modern Islam: Liberal and Fundamentalist Thought
Here, you gain a critical grounding in Islamic sources, thinkers and theories relevant to the development of Islamic liberal and fundamentalist perspectives, and explore how these perspectives bear upon contemporary discussions and events. You are introduced to Islamic debates such as those which address textual interpretation, the relation between revelation and human reason, and the nature of political authority. You study key sources such as the Qur’an, Hadith and treatises of key Islamic theologians and jurists, and are introduced to classical and modern theorists from Ibn Taymiyyah to Tariq Ramadan. The module explores critical ideas related to the way in which social context and religious premises affect both religious and political theories.

Philosophy of Religion
Three of the ‘classical’ arguments for the existence of God – the ontological argument, the cosmological argument, and the argument from design – consider respectively whether reason, science or experience can show us that God exists. You begin by considering these arguments, before looking at the relationship between religion and morality; examining Kant’s moral argument, which appears to support a case for the existence of God, and Plato’s Euthyphro dilemma which appears to tell against it. You consider aspects of religious epistemology, language and philosophy of mind, looking at topics such as miracles, the nature of religious experience, religious language and personal identity. How do these long-standing debates affect the argument for the rationality of religious belief?

Psychology and Religion
You survey 20th-century trends in the dialogue between psychology and religion. We begin by exploring the varieties of religious experience, going on to examine the various contributions of psychoanalysis, Jungian depth-psychology and existentialism to the study of religion. This material provides the basis for discussion of the literature comparing religious altered states of consciousness.
Religious Studies Dissertation
This module is available to Stage 3 single or joint honours students who have achieved a 2.1 or above at Stage 2. It gives you the chance to explore a topic of particular interest in detail – the subject is agreed with the department and written under the guidance of an academic supervisor. It is particularly recommended for those who wish to pursue postgraduate studies.

Religious and Film
Do biblical epics paint an accurate picture of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ? Can parallels be found between ‘secular’ film characters and the person of Christ? Are some types of films more successful than others at generating a theological conversation? To what extent do the films of Martin Scorsese wrestle with key religious themes such as redemption, sin and violence? Here, you examine the manner and extent to which film is capable of exploring and reflecting religious values, beliefs and core themes. The films examined include The Last Temptation of Christ, The Passion of the Christ, The Wizard of Oz, The Shawshank Redemption and Edward Scissorhands.

Religious Studies and Philosophy in the Classroom
Providing you with the opportunity to enter the working world in your third year, as a taster for a teaching career, this module allows you to gain teaching experience in a secondary school classroom. For one term, you spend half a day each week in a local school under the supervision of a teacher who acts as your mentor. Not only does this provide invaluable work experience, but the teaching will also inform and shape your own academic work.

Sociology of Religion
In this module, you look at some of the main ideas on religion by some of the founders of sociology, including Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Troeltsch. You study a number of new religious movements in a sociological context and gain a sociological understanding of religious minorities in modern Britain. You go on to discuss the issue of secularisation within the modern world, look at the varieties of religious institutions, and explore the competing views of the future of religion in the modern world.

William James: Philosopher, Psychologist and Scholar of Religion
William James (1842-1910) has arguably had a profound impact in the shaping of three contemporary disciplines: philosophy, psychology and the study of religion. This module includes an in-depth study of his key texts – The Principles of Psychology, The Will to Believe, The Varieties of Religious Experience and his studies of pragmatism, including Pragmatism, A Pluralistic Universe and The Meaning of Truth. You explore how the life of William James and his family relates to his work and explore his attempt to set up a scientific study of psychic phenomena.
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come along for an Open Day or a UCAS Visit Day and see what it is like to be a student at Kent.

Open Days
Kent runs Open Days during the summer and autumn. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff and current students, find out about our courses and attend subject displays, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer tours around the campus to view our sports facilities, the library, and University accommodation. For further information and details of how to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

UCAS Visit Days
If you apply to study at Kent and we offer you a place (or invite you to attend an interview), you will usually be sent an invitation to one of our UCAS Visit Days. You can book to attend through your online Kent Applicant Portal. The Visit Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with both academic staff and with current students about your chosen subject. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/visitdays

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to our campuses at any time. The University runs tours of the Canterbury campus throughout the year for anyone who is unable to attend an Open Day or UCAS Visit Day. It may also be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this. Alternatively, we can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet, which includes the main points of interest. For details and to book your place, or to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal

More information
If you have any further queries on how to choose your degree, our admissions procedures, how to prepare for your studies or would like information about the University of Kent’s facilities and services, please contact us.

T: +44 (0)1227 827272
Freephone (UK only): 0800 975 3777
www.kent.ac.uk

We come to you
The University of Kent attends higher education fairs in the UK, mainland Europe and in many countries around the world. At these events, universities and colleges come together to give face-to-face information and guidance to prospective students.
We also have Kent overseas representatives who can give you up-to-date advice on courses, the application process, applying for a visa (if you need one), and details about living and studying in the UK. We can also arrange individual tours of campus.

**On the web**
For the latest departmental information on studying religious studies at Kent, please see [www.kent.ac.uk/secl/thrs](http://www.kent.ac.uk/secl/thrs)

For updates and news stories from the School, please see our website and social media sites:
[www.kent.ac.uk/secl](http://www.kent.ac.uk/secl)
[www.facebook.com/unikentsecl](http://www.facebook.com/unikentsecl)
[www.twitter.com/unikentsecl](http://www.twitter.com/unikentsecl)
[www.youtube.com/unikentsecl](http://www.youtube.com/unikentsecl)

**Location**
Canterbury.

**Award**
BA (Hons).

**Degree programme**

**Single honours**
- Religious Studies (V616)

**Joint honours**
Religious Studies and…
- Asian Studies (TV46)
- Classical & Archaeological Studies (VQ68)
- Comparative Literature (VQ62)
- Drama (VW64)
- English and American Literature (QV36)
- Film (VW66)
- French (RV16)
- German (RV26)
- History (VV61)
- Philosophy (VV56)

**Offer levels**
Single honours: BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher. Joint honours: AAB/ABB/BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 15/16 points at Higher. Joint honours subjects may have special requirements.

**Year abroad**
Students taking a joint honours language degree spend a year abroad between their second and final years of study, studying or working in their chosen language. Other students also have the opportunity to study abroad in Canada, Hong Kong or the USA – see [www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad](http://www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad) for details.

**Placement year**
Students have the opportunity to apply for a placement year in the UK or abroad, working for an organisation or company as part of your studies. The placement year takes place between Stages 2 and 3. For more details, see [www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement](http://www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement)

**Scholarships and bursaries**
For details of scholarships and bursaries at Kent, see [www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding)

**Q-Step Centre**
Students have the opportunity to benefit from Kent’s Q-Step Centre, which provides advanced training in quantitative methods in the social sciences.

**Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest course information, see:**
[www.kent.ac.uk/ug](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug)
COME AND VISIT US

We hold Open Days at our Canterbury and Medway campuses.
For more information, see:
www.kent.ac.uk/opendays