1. **Title of the module**

RSST5150 (TH515) – Dissertation

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

School of European Culture and Languages

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

30 Credits (15 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn and Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None, although students are required to submit a one page illustrative bibliography of key texts and/or other resources relevant to their chosen topic to the module convenor by the start of the autumn term in which this module begins in order to be finally admitted to the module. Students failing to do this will normally be required to choose an alternative taught module in place of this dissertation module.

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

Optional for BA Religious Studies (Single & Joint Honours); BA Asian Studies (Joint Honours)

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature, role and significance of religion in relation to a defined context or issue;

8.2 Make appropriate use of theoretical and substantive insights from humanities or social science disciplines appropriate to their research project to inform the project’s research focus or question and to situate its argument or findings in the context of wider knowledge or debates;

8.3 Design a coherent research project, including a clearly defined question or focus, a structured argument or methodology appropriate to the project, and a core argument or findings which clearly address the research focus or question;

8.4 Engage with primary and secondary source material in a scholarly way, demonstrating the ability to understand religious concepts, debates and life-worlds in ways that represent them fairly, whilst also maintaining a critical understanding of their assumptions, implications, limitations or contradictions.

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 Understand and evaluate their source material, whether textual, visual, auditory or data gathered through original fieldwork;

9.2 Demonstrate awareness of alternative theories and interpretations relevant to their topic, and defend their argument or position in relation to these as appropriate;

9.3 Construct a coherent argument based on the critical discussion of relevant concepts or source material;

9.4 Identify and select sources that are most appropriate to their topic, make effective notes in relation to these, produce a clearly-written text, and make appropriate use of referencing styles and bibliographic formatting;

9.5 Make appropriate use of IT and other electronic resources (including online databases and search engines) to produce their dissertation;

9.6 Manage their time effectively in order to complete each phase of the research process in good time before submitting their dissertation to the agreed deadline;

9.7 Make effective use of supervision sessions by producing written material as agreed, identifying key issues for discussion/clarification and responding constructively to feedback from their supervisor.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

Students are required to identify a viable research focus or question for their project which they will then pursue, with supervisory support, in order to submit their final dissertation. In the summer before joining the module, students will be given advice on how to identify their research focus, and by the start of the autumn term in which the module begins they will be expected to have produced a single side of A4 summarising key literature or other sources relevant to their specific project. Individual supervision will begin from the autumn term onwards. Initially this is likely to focus on clarifying the research focus or question, and situating it more deeply in existing literature and debates. Following this a clearer outline plan for conducting the research will be developed, with students then undertaking work necessary to meet each phase of this plan. If the project involves original fieldwork, the student will be expected to submit a research ethics application form for Faculty approval. As the project develops, chapter drafts will be submitted for review and discussion with the supervisor. Supervision contact time is likely to vary according to the project and student need, but will not exceed a total of 6 hours per student (including face to face supervision or time spent writing written feedback to electronically-submitted drafts). Supervisors will provide feedback on chapter drafts, which will need to be submitted to supervisors in good time before supervision meetings, but will not provide feedback on whole draft manuscripts once chapters are completed.

Supervisors will only provide supervisory support during term-time. Once the project has been agreed and a supervisor allocated in the autumn term, students will not normally be allowed to change their fundamental focus of their project (although their specific questions are likely to change as the project develops) or change their supervisor unless in highly exceptional circumstances.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

The reading for dissertation topics will be determined by the focus of each individual project

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Contact Hours: 12

Private Study Hours: 288

Total Study Hours: 300

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

* Dissertation (12,000 words) – 100%
  1. Reassessment methods
* Reassessment Instrument: 100% Project

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | *8.1* | *8.2* | *8.3* | *8.4* | *9.1* | *9.2* | *9.3* | *9.4* | *9.5* | *9.6* | *9.7* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Supervision | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Workshops | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dissertation | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/ declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

Students come to the dissertation module from the full range of departmental sub-disciplines and global foci, as well as from a wide range of international backgrounds. The learning outcomes and scheduled meetings for the dissertation module alike encourage students to develop skills and knowledge so that they can address themselves to the international and global contexts within which religious and secular traditions most often find their orientation today. Meetings with dissertation supervisors and group meetings with other dissertation students will reinforce the global dimensions of our research as well as the international implications of our various projects. Students will be encouraged to develop practical and conceptual implications of their research for ongoing questions of global culture, transnational trends, and international conflicts.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 21/12/15 | Minor | September 2016 | 1, 7 | No |
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| Revised FSO Jan 2018 |