1. **Title of the module**

RSST5710 (TH571) – Death of God? Christian Theology and the Modern World

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

Division of Arts & Humanities

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

Level 5

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 or Spring

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

None

1. **The course(s) of study to which the module contributes**

Optional for BA Religious Studies (Single and Joint Honours)

Also available as an elective module

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

8.1 Evaluate the significance and contribution of a number of leading theologians since the nineteenth century from a variety of denominational backgrounds;

8.2 Demonstrate understanding of the changes in Christian thought and practice in a variety of situations in the last two centuries;

8.3 Recognise and evaluate key theological developments as particularly evinced throughout the twentieth century, including the emergence of liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, liberation theology, black theology and feminist theology;

8.4 Analyse the interrelations of Christian theology and contemporary society.

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

9.1 Demonstrate a growing ability to work independently and effectively both in relation to the two written assignments and the examination for this module;

9.2 Present evidence of an ability to structure scholarly and carefully thought through arguments;

9.3 Show a readiness to explore alternative perspectives on the efficacy of theological debate and demonstrate a respect for the contrary positions of others;

9.4 Use electronic media to identify and collate appropriate academic resources from the library material, including primary sources, as well as online journals, and other reliable electronic sources, and reference this material effectively;

9.5 Deploy a range of IT skills effectively, such as word-processing text with footnotes, basic formatting, searching databases and text files;

9.6 Demonstrate a capacity to take responsibility for their own personal and professional learning and development.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module will enable students to analyse and understand the development of Christian theology over the last two hundred years. We will be critically evaluating the significance and contribution of a number of leading twentieth century theologians from a variety of denominational backgrounds and endeavouring to understand to a sophisticated degree the changes in Christian thought and practice in a variety of situations in the twentieth century.

The module will begin by surveying the main strands of post-Enlightenment Christian theology, including the contributions of Kant, Schleiermacher and Feuerbach. There will be a detailed focus of two of the ‘Death of God’ theologians from the twentieth century, Thomas Altizer and William Hamilton. We will then critically evaluate the significance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his influence (with particular reference to Harvey Cox and John A.T. Robinson); Liberal Protestantism and the rise of Neo-Orthodoxy, with particular reference to Paul Tillich and Karl Barth; Rudolf Bultmann and his programme of demythologisation; and an interrogation of the Christian understanding of ‘hope’ with specific reference to Jürgen Moltmann. The module also involves a study of key theological movements, in particular Liberation Theology, Black Theology and Feminist Theology.

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

Davies, D. (2007). *The Theology of Death*, London: T&T Clark.

Ford, D. (2005*). The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology Since 1918*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Gill, R. (ed.). (1995). *Readings in Modern Theology*, London: SPCK.

Jones, G. (ed.). (2007). *The Blackwell Companion to Modern Theology*, Oxford: Blackwell.

McGrath, A. (2004). *Theology: The Basics*, Oxford: Blackwell.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Contact Hours: 40

Total Private Study Hours: 260

Total Study Hours: 300

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

* Essay 1 (1,500 words) – 20%
* Essay 2 (2,000 words) – 30%
* Examination (2 hours) – 50%

13.2 Reassessment methods

* 100% Coursework (3,000 words)

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

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| **Module learning outcome** | *8.1* | *8.2* | *8.3* | *8.4* | *9.1* | *9.2* | *9.3* | *9.4* | *9.5* | *9.6* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Lecture | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seminar | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |  |  | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay 1 | **x** | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Essay 2 | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Examination | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  | **x** |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The Division 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**

This module has a strong international flavour, beginning with the introduction of a number of American theologians associated with the 1960s Death of God movement, before focusing on a selection of twentieth century European philosophers and theologians. Towards the end of the module, there will be a specific focus on the work of South American theologians of liberation and black theologians from the United States of America.

**DIVISION 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 delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 09/11/2018 | Minor | Jan 2020 | 14 | No |
| 14/01/21 | Minor – removal of level 6 version | Jan 2022 | 1, 3, 8-9, 13-14 | No |