1. **Title of the module**

RSST6280 (TH628) – Political Theologies in Secular States: Roman Empire to European Union

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 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 programmes of study to which the module contributes**

Optional for BA Religious Studies (Single and Joint Honours.

Also available as a ‘wild’ module choice.

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

8.1 Demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to critically assess, approaches to the topic of political theology both inside and outside the Western tradition;

8.2 Demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to critically assess, historical trajectories within various traditions as these have shaped recent discussions of ‘political religions’;

8.3 Frame their own research interests and disciplinary questions in light of comparative, historical and theoretical approaches to the relationship between politics and religion;

8.4 Reflect critically on key concepts such as ‘sovereignty’, ‘globalisation’, ‘democracy’, ‘terrorism’, ‘fanaticism’;

8.5 Discern the influence of key classical thinkers and ideas in contemporary discussions of politics and religion.

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

9.1 Communicate information, arguments, and analysis to specialist and non-specialist audiences;

9.2 Demonstrate refined essay-writing and argument-construction skills;

9.3 Demonstrate competence in the use of appropriate IT resources, including word processing and critical evaluation of online material;

9.4 Demonstrate honed close reading and analytical skills;

9.5 Analyse well-established theories in terms of their application to contemporary contexts or debates.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This course considers important moments in the Western history of political theology in order to understand modern and contemporary discussions of secular politics. These moments will be considered in relation to comparable instances of politically imagined theology (or theologically imagined politics) from other religious traditions as well. Students will:

- Examine key topics in the modern formation of these discussions (e.g., distinctions between public and private; secular spheres; religion as extra-political ideal; fanaticism; politicised evaluations of Western religion as exceptional in relation to the ‘others’; religion and political revolution);

- Map important similarities and differences between Western and non-Western modelling of the relationship between religion and politics;

- Critically evaluate recent presentations of the inherent violence of religions, the inevitability of the clash of civilisations, and the usefulness of religion in ‘making globalisation work’.

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

Agamben, G. (2011) *The Kingdom and the Glory: For a Theological Genealogy of Economy and Government*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Anidjar, G. (2003) *The Jew, the Arab: A History of the Enemy* (Cultural Memory in the Present). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Cavanaugh, W. (2009) *The Myth of Religious Violence: Secular Ideology and the Roots of Modern Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Crockett, C. (2011) *Radical Political Theology: Religion and Politics After Liberalism*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Derrida, J. (2001) *Acts of Religion*. London: Routledge.

Fagenblat, M. (2012) *A Covenant of Creatures: Levinas’ Philosophy of Judaism*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Contact Hours: 40

Private Study Hours: 260

Total Study Hours: 300

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

* Essay 1 (2,500 words) – 40%
* Essay 2 (3,000 words) – 50%
* Presentation (10 minutes) – 10%

13.2 Reassessment methods

* Reassessment Instrument: 100% Coursework

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 / 8.6 | 8.2 / 8.7 | 8.3 / 8.8 | 8.4 / 8.9 | 8.5 / 8.10 | 9.1 / 9.6 | 9.2 / 9.7 | 9.3 / 9.8 | 9.4 / 9.9 | 9.5 / 9.10 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Lecture | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  | **x** |
| Seminar | **x** | **x** | **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** |  |
| Presentation | **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**

The centrality of religion as a topic for recent interdisciplinary discussions has emerged in relationship to a growing unease about earlier, modern modes of distinguishing public and private life. This module will give rise to these contemporary manifestations together with the manner in which there has been a ‘return’ of religion as an internationally significant political force in recent decades and surprising appropriations of religion as a figure for secular Western democracy.

**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 delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 13/12/16 | Major | September 2017 | 3-4, 10, 12-13 | No |
| 29/01/18 | Major | September 2018 | 1, 8-9 | No |
| 10/01/19 | Minor | September 2020 | 1, 3, 8, 9, 12 | No |