1. **Title of the module**

RSST6520 (TH652) – Global Comparison: Theory and Method

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**

Compulsory for BA Global Philosophies (Single Honours); and BA Religious Studies (Single Honours)

Optional for BA Religious Studies (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 theoretical and methodological challenges involved in the comparative and cross-cultural study of worldviews, philosophies and religions;

8.2 Demonstrate an awareness of the key hermeneutical questions arising from translation from one language and cultural context to another;

8.3 Contrast texts, concepts, ideas and practices from different intellectual and cultural traditions;

8.4 Demonstrate a thorough awareness of the social, historical and cultural context in which ideas, practices and forms of identity develop;

8.5 Demonstrate a significant understanding of one or more theoretical and/or methodological approaches to cross-cultural interpretation.

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

9.1 Demonstrate a capacity to engage critically with a variety of scholarly resources to extend their understanding, evaluate evidence and construct a persuasive argument;

9.2 Present complex information in an intelligent and coherent fashion to both specialist and non-specialist audiences;

9.3 Demonstrate qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment such as exercising personal responsibility and decision-making;

9.4 Engage successfully in a focused research project and present the results in an effective and persuasive manner.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module provides an introduction to the theoretical, methodological and socio-political issues pertaining to the cross-cultural and comparative study of philosophies, ideas, worldviews and religions. It will introduce and explore theoretical frameworks and methodological questions related to the translation and representation of ideas, texts and worldviews as explored by different theories of interpretation. It will also explore issues surrounding understanding rituals, cultural practices and modes of identity formation and reflect upon the nature of ‘the global’ and ‘globalisation’ as categories. Questions to be explored in this module would normally include: how does one determine the meaning of a text? What hermeneutic, ethical and political issues arise when translating a concept, idea or practice from one linguistic, cultural or historical context into another? What are the challenges and pitfalls of comparative analysis? How do ideas, texts and forms of identity take on new meanings in the global circulation of ideas, practices and people? How does the mode of media/technology (oral composition, printed text, film, digital representation) impact upon thinking and its interpretation?

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

Adhar Mall, R (2000). *Intercultural Philosophy*. London: Rowmann and Littlefield.

Berger, P & Thomas Luckman (1996). *The Social Construction of Reality*. London: Penguin.

Bruns, G (1995). *Hermeneutics Ancient and Modern*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Felski, R, and Stanford Friedmann, S (eds) (2013). *Comparison: Theories, Approaches, Uses*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Hughes, A. (2017). *Comparison: A Critical Primer*. Sheffield: Equinox.

Ma, L and van Brakel, J, (eds). (2017). *Fundamentals of Comparative and Intercultural Philosophy*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Zimmerman, J (2015). *Hermeneutics: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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

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)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |
| Lecture | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| Seminar | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay 1 | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Essay 2 | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Presentation | **x** | **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**

The entire module explores themes, issues and methods in the study of global systems of thought and practice, and their international context. As such, it provides the means for considering the methods, approaches and hermeneutic challenges involved in

**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.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 18/02/19 | Major | January 2020 | 1,6-8,10-12,17 | No |
| 14.01.21 | Minor | January 2022 | 13-14 | No |