1. **Title of the module**

RSST3520 (TH352) – What is Religion?

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 4

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

15 Credits (7.5 ECTS)

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

Autumn

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

None

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

Compulsory for BA Religious Studies (Single Honours)

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

8.1 Demonstrate an appreciation of religion in phenomenological terms;

8.2 Assess the work of phenomenologists, sociologists and psychologists in the field of the study of religions;

8.3 Demonstrate an ability to use and appropriate the rudimentary language used in the phenomenology, sociology, and psychology of religion;

8.4 Apply a methodological, phenomenological, sociological and psychological perspective to the study of religion.

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

9.1 Identify and use appropriate primary and secondary sources;

9.2 Demonstrate writing and organisation skills, and to use correct and consistent referencing and to identify and avoid plagiarism.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module will introduce students to discussions about the definition of religion and to some of the disciplines in which religion is studied, with special reference to the differences between Theology and Religious Studies. Particular consideration will be given in the initial weeks to the phenomenological approach and to the efficacy of Ninian Smart’s dimensions of religion. In the following weeks, the module will be focused on the comparative study of religion (with reference to Eliade), the sociology of religion (with reference to Durkheim, Weber and Marx) and the psychology of religion (with reference to Otto, James, Freud and Jung). The module will also host a study skills session, the aim of which is to equip students with key study skills in the areas of writing essays, referencing and plagiarism-prevention.

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

Crawford, R. (2002). *What is Religion? Introducing the Study of Religion*, London: Routledge.

Herling, B.L. (2017). *A Beginner’s Guide to the Study of Religion*, London & New York: Bloomsbury.

Hinnells, J. (ed.), (2005). *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Paden, W.E. (1992). *Interpreting the Sacred: Ways of Viewing Religion*, Boston: Beacon Press.

Pals, D.L. (2006). *Eight Theories of Religion*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rodrigues, H. & Harding, J.S. (2009). *Introduction to the Study of Religion*, London: Routledge.

Segal, R. (ed.), (2006). *The Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion*, Oxford: Blackwell.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Contact Hours: 20

Total Private Study Hours: 130

Total Study Hours: 150

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

* Study Skills Assignment (600 words) – 15%
* Essay (1,500 words) – 35%
* Examination (2 hours) – 50%

13.2 Reassessment methods

* 100% Coursework (2,500 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* | *9.1* | *9.2* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Lecture | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| Seminar | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Study Skills Assignment |  |  |  |  | **x** | **x** |
| Essay | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Examination | **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 introduces the key classic thinkers and approaches that have influenced and formed the comparative study of religion. Necessarily, this involves engagement with religion as an international, global and cross-cultural phenomenon with examples drawn from a wide variety of cultural and religious perspectives. Issues of cross-cultural understanding, translation and interaction between diverse cultures and societies is an integral part of the subject matter.

**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) |
| 14/01/2021 | Major | 2021/22 | 4,10,13 | No |
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| Revised FSO Jan 2018 |