1. **KentVision Code and title of the module**

RSST3510 – Introduction to Atheism and Christianity

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

Division of Arts & Humanities (Religious Studies)

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 or Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions**

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 choice

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

8.1 Demonstrate an appreciation of different concepts of ‘atheism’, and key examples of how and why these concepts have been used, including in relation to different aspects of atheism (identity, belief and practice), in different theoretical and cultural contexts and some atheisms’ special relationship with Christianity.

8.2 Demonstrate an understanding of how atheism and Christianity can manifest in beliefs, practices and identities, and critically engage with theoretical debates concerning the status of atheism as a worldview analogous to Christianity and other religions.

8.3 Describe, articulate and compare two major atheist and/or Christian traditions, demonstrating an accurate and detailed understanding of how these traditions manifest in everyday belief and practice, and an awareness of the historical trajectories of these traditions.

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

9.1 Demonstrate a growing ability to communicate effectively as well as to organise information in a clear and coherent fashion;

9.2 Demonstrate a growing ability to work independently and effectively and to apply a variety of methodological perspectives.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module will introduce students to atheism and Christianity as worldview traditions, through an appreciation of the key concepts and debates (including distinctions between nonreligious atheism and ‘atheist religions’), and the diverse manifestation of atheism and Christianity in political and communal life. It traces the historic reasons why atheism has been differentiated from religion and other worldviews, and the competing interests that undergird the idea of a religion/atheism dichotomy, as well as the key reasons that contemporary scholars have challenged this idea. The second part of this module explores atheist and Christian traditions from around the world, including humanism in Europe, Communist atheism in Eastern Europe and Asia, agnosticism in Europe and Japan, and the nature and reaches of ‘Christendom’. Across these case studies, students will explore how atheism and Christianity worldviews manifest as lived traditions – in the beliefs, ritual and practices, art and culture, and social lives of so-called ‘non-believers’ – as well as locating these traditions in social and political context. Focusing on the close, often symbiotic relationship between Western atheism and Christianity, the module also introduces the ways in which religious and nonreligious traditions shape one another, and the significant, sometimes violent tensions that have also marked religious-nonreligious relations.

1. **Reading list**

The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

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

* Essay 1 (2,000 words) – 50%
* Essay 2 (2,000 words) – 50%

13.2 Reassessment methods

* 100% Coursework (3,000 words)

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

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

Atheism and Christianity are international phenomena, and Christianity is the world’s largest religion and non-religion it fourth largest ‘religion’. Christianity is a global phenomenon, and the majority of atheists live in East Asia, whilst significant and distinctive atheist populations and cultures are also found in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North America and Australasia. This module understands atheism and Christianity in these diverse contexts, and shows the necessity of cross-national approaches to the study of atheism and non-religion. It also explores similarities and differences between diverse global expressions of atheism and Christianity, as well as how these traditions have travelled across cultures.

**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) |
| 17/12/2021 | Major | September 2022 | 1,8,10,17 | No |
|  |  |  |  |  |