1. **Title of the module**

RSST5700/RSST5740 (TH570/TH574) – Religion and Film

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 (RSST5700) and Level 6 (RSST5740)

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

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module Level 5 students will be able to:**

8.1 Evaluate the manner and extent to which the medium of film might be used to facilitate, advance and critique religious and theological enquiry and debate;

8.2 Recognise the pervasiveness of theological themes in the medium of film;

8.3 Investigate a particular aspect of religion and film in more depth.

**On successfully completing the module Level 6 students will be able to:**

8.4 Outline and engage with to a critical extent the approaches that have been used by various scholars in their attempts to bring together the worlds of film and religion/theology. Students will be expected to show to a sophisticated degree which ones they consider to be most helpful and academically sustainable, and why;

8.5 Demonstrate refined intellectual skills by exploring critical links between theology/religious studies and the medium of film, including the evaluation and appropriation of film criticism;

8.6 Recognise to a sophisticated degree the extent to which theological and religious models and criticism may be applied to the medium of film;

8.7 Investigate particular aspects of religion and film in critical depth.

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. **On successfully completing the module Level 5 students will be able to:**

9.1 Demonstrate a growing ability to work independently and effectively;

9.2 Present evidence of an ability to structure (and in the case of oral presentations to articulate in front of their peers) scholarly and carefully thought through arguments;

9.3 Show a readiness to explore alternative perspectives on the efficacy of the theology/religion and film discourse 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 the location of suitable film reviews and criticism, 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.

**On successfully completing the module Level 6 students will be able to:**

9.7 Demonstrate an ability to engage in critical independent research;

9.8 Present and structure theological and religious arguments carefully and persuasively to professional standards in both written and oral form;

9.9 Show a critical ability to identify and enter into a conversation with alternative perspectives that pertain to discourse in religion/theology and film and to be able to enter into critical dialogue with contrary arguments and perspectives;

9.10 Use electronic media to identify and collate appropriate academic resources from the library material, including the location of suitable film reviews and criticism, online journals, and other reliable electronic sources, and reference this material effectively;

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

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

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The aim of this module is to enable students to understand and evaluate the range of models by which film and religion may be employed as conversation partners and to provide them with the tools necessary for exploring critical links between theology/religious studies and the medium of film. The course will begin with an examination of the methodological, conceptual and disciplinary issues that arise before exploring in critical depth the historical relationship between religion and film, with specific reference to the reception (ranging from prohibition to utilisation) of film by different religious groups. There will be a focus on particular categories of film and categories and models of religious and theological understanding, allowing students taking this module to develop the critical skills helpful for film interpretation and for exploring possible religious and theological approaches to film criticism.

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

Deacy, C. (2001), *Screen Christologies: Redemption and the Medium of Film*, Cardiff: University of Wales Press

Deacy, C. & Ortiz, G. (2008), *Theology and Film: Challenging the Sacred/Secular Divide,* Oxford: Blackwell

Lyden, J. (ed.), (2009), *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film*, London & New York: Routledge, 2009.

Marsh, C. & Oritz, G. (eds.), (1997), *Explorations in Theology and Film: Movies and Meaning*, Oxford: Blackwell

Marsh, C. (2004), *Cinema and Sentiment: Film’s Challenge to Theology*, Carlisle: Paternoster Press

Mitchell, J. & Plate, S. Brent, (2007), *The Film and Religion Reader*, London and New York: Routledge

Wright, M.J. (2007), *Religion and Film: An Introduction*, London: I.B. Taurus

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Contact Hours: 40

Private Study Hours: 260

Total Study Hours: 300

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

RSST5700:

* Essay (5,000 words) – 60%
* Film Interpretation (2,500 words) – 30%
* Presentation (15 minutes) – 10%

RSST5740:

* Essay (4,000 words) – 60%
* Film Interpretation (2,000 words) – 30%
* Presentation (15 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* | *8.2* | *8.3* | *8.4* | *8.5* | *8.6* | *8.7* | *9.1 / 9.7* | *9.2 / 9.8* | *9.3 / 9.9* | *9.4 / 9.10* | *9.5 / 9.11* | *9.6 / 9.12* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **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** | **x** | **x** |  |  | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Film Interpretation | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Presentation | **x** | **x** |  |  |  | **x** |  | **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**

This module has a rich international flavour as it is focused on looking at the cinema and theological and religious traditions from a range of cultural contexts. Many of the films examined in this module originate from the United States of America, and a significant number of the theorists whose work is studied are American-based. For the first assignment students can focus on a film or theorist of their choice from any global or international background, and in the main essay students are afforded the opportunity to examine in depth questions relating to the relationship between religion and the secular, including models of secularisation, which differ according to whether the focus is on the application of religion and film scholarship in Western Europe or North America. The module commonly attracts students from a range of backgrounds, including from America, and students are afforded the opportunity in seminar discussions to discuss the relationship between the international and global debates around religion and the secular that the module raises and their own national and international backgrounds and identities.

**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) |
| 18/12/2018 | Minor | September 2019 | 12 |  |
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| Revised FSO Jan 2018 |