Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD006429	**Version:** 2 **Date Amended:** 18/Dec/2023

1. Module Title
Spirituality, Religion and the Secular

2a. Module Leader
Andrew Todd

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this module you will consider how spirituality and religion have diversified and changed in a globalised society, and explore changing patterns of belief, practice and association. You will have the opportunity to investigate aspects of spirituality, such as mindfulness and meditation, and new personal rituals, such as fixing 'love locks' on Paris bridges, or setting up roadside memorials. You will explore how traditional religions have adapted and changed in a more' liquid' society, for example, by going online; but also how some religious groups have reacted against globalisation. And you will discover new secular forms of belief and practice and learn about the rise of people identifying as of 'no religion'.

You will look at how sociologists have historically examined religious beliefs, practices, movements and institutions in order to understand more about the implications of these for individuals, societies and communities. But you will also learn how as contemporary sociologists we can continue to explore and understand the cultural and political significance of religion and spirituality and their interaction with secular world-views within the context of globalisation.

You will have the opportunity to undertake structured skill development in presentation and debate, and in written analysis. These skills contribute to future employability skills and relate to other outcomes on your degree. This module is taught by interactive sessions and may include visits to places of spirituality and/or religion, such as mosques, churches and meditation centres.

6b. Outline Content

- Introduction to Studying Religion Sociologically (Marx, Weber & Durkheim)
- Contemporary Spirituality in all its variety
- Living in a 'Secular' Society
- Religion and Spirituality in Public Life: the right to be different
- Traditional Religions Today
- The Rebirth of Ritual
- Religion and Spirituality in a Global Perspective
- Visiting places of Faith/Belief/Spirituality
- Thinking Sociologically about Spirituality and Religion Today
- What has happened to Spirituality, Religion and the Secular?

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

n/a

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate knowledge of selected theoretical perspectives in the sociology of religion
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically analyse issues relating to spirituality, religion and the secular in contemporary contexts
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically engage with a range of sources relating to the sociological study of spirituality religion and the secular
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Present key ideas and arguments in written and presentation form

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	Integrated lecture/seminar 2hr X 12 weeks, including group consultations, field trips
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Reading and research, preparation of assignments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-2	33 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Case Study (1,000 words)					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	67 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay (2,000 words)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]