

MODULE CODE: HPRS6003
TITLE: Atheism and non-Belief: from early atheists to the atheist church
DATED: 24/04/2018

LEVEL: 6
CREDITS: 20

JACS CODE: V622

AIM(S)

- To offer students a comprehensive study of 'Atheisms', both historical and contemporary.
- To provide students with the tools to evaluate the role that Atheisms have in the contemporary world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate a critical awareness of the diversity of world-views and philosophies encompassed by the term 'Atheism';
- describe and analyse the relationship between Atheism and religion;
- engage effectively with key primary sources relating to post-enlightenment and contemporary non-religious thinkers and writers;
- evaluate the impact and influence of Atheism on popular culture and society within contemporary Britain.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- A discussion of terminology: 'Atheism', 'Anti-Theism', 'Non-Theism', 'Agnosticism', 'Skepticism', 'Humanism', 'non-Belief'.
- A history of Atheism from the Classical period to the Enlightenment.
- Nineteenth century developments in Atheism.
- The role of science in the development of Atheism.
- The New Atheism: people and writings.
- Atheism within religions and atheistic religions.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	48	24%
Independent learning	152	76%
Placement learning		
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Report	1,000 words	30%

Assessment Component 2

☒ Written exam ☐ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Take home exam	6 hours, 3,500 words	70%

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	70%
Coursework	30%
Practical	
TOTAL	100%

READING LIST

Module Code	HPRS6003	
Module Title	Atheism and non-Belief: from early atheists to the atheist church	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	Baggini, Julian <i>Atheism: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Oxford: OUP, 2003)	☐
Essential	Billington, Ray <i>Religion Without God</i> (Abingdon: Routledge, 2002)	☒
Essential	Carroll, Anthony & Richard Norman (eds) <i>Religion and Atheism: Beyond the Divide</i> , London: Routledge, 2016	☐
Essential	Cotter, Christopher, R, Philip Andrew Quadrio & Jonathan Tuckett (eds) <i>New Atheism: Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Debates</i> , (New York: Springer International Publishing, 2017).	☐
Further	Berman, David <i>A History of Atheism in Britain from Hobbes to Russell</i> (London: Croom Helm, 1988)	☐
Further	Dawkins, Richard (2016 [2006]) <i>The God Delusion</i> , London: Transworld Publishers.	☐
Further	Comte-Sponville, Andre <i>The Little Book of Atheist Spirituality</i> , (London: Transworld, 2009)	☒
Further	Cotter, Christopher R <i>New Atheism, Open-Mindedness, and Critical Thinking</i> , (New York: Springer International Publishing, 2017).	☐
Further	De Botton, Alain, <i>Religion for Atheists</i> , (London: Hamish Hamilton, 2012).	☒
Further	Hyman, Gavin <i>A Short History of Atheism</i> , London: IB Taurus, 2010)	☐

Further	Lee, Lois & Stephen Bullivant (eds) <i>Oxford Dictionary of Atheism</i> , (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)	☒
Further	Martin, Michael(ed.) <i>The Cambridge Companion to Atheism</i> (Cambridge: CUP, 2007)	☐
Further	McGrath, Alister <i>The Dawkins Delusion</i> (London: SPCL, 2007).	☐
Further	Walters, Kerry <i>Atheism: A Guide for the Perplexed</i> , (London: Continuum, 2010).	☐