

Scottish History

Staff - Student Liaison Committee Meeting

Friday 20th November 2009 at 2.15 pm

Attending: Dr J Fraser (Chair)
Dr M Hammond
Dr W Ugolini
S Clark (Medieval Scottish History)
J Nordtomme (Medieval Scottish History)
H Robinson (Medieval Scottish History)
R Coult (Modern Scottish History)
A Houwen (Modern Scottish History)
Z Palmer Laporte (Modern Scottish History)
K Christie, Undergraduate Administrator
M Forrest, School Academic Liaison Librarian
A Brockington

Apologies: Dr E Cameron
Dr A Murdoch
Dr G Pentland
Dr J Wormald
M Schmueckle (Medieval Scottish History)

2. Communications (Staff)

Dr Fraser welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that these meetings are regarded as a vital part of the process by the section to gain information on student opinion.

The main change to the two semester one pre-honours courses this year is the trial of a December exam. Both exams will take place in week 11, the first of the two weeks of exams. Next session the academic year is being revised with week 11 to be a revision week and exams in the two weeks after that, so with the possibility of an exam as late as the 23rd December.

The results from the December exams will be evaluated and considered along with student feedback to assess the value of continuing with December exams.

3. Communications (Students)

Medieval Scottish History

Students had liked the tutorials.

The different styles of lecturers had been found difficult by some students. They would prefer to have handouts in the lectures.

A list of names, especially the early medieval ones, and glossary of terms on WebCT would be helpful.

The feedback received on the essay proposal had been found to be helpful.

Modern Scottish History

Students had asked that more of the lectures were put on WebCT and that the lectures be made more visual with more PowerPoint presentations. Room G.08 was not liked as a lecture theatre.

More linking between the lectures and the tutorials for that week was also asked for.

There were differing views on the December exam with some students preferring it but others in favour of a May/June exam.

The determination of the tutorial performance mark was discussed.

4. Library

Margaret Forrest explained that it is the library policy to buy eBooks where available but currently there are not many available for Scottish History. eReserve can be used for some items but is limited by copyright. Books for which there is likely to be high demand can be transferred to the HUB.

The use of eReserve for the courses was popular with the students, especially for the tutorial readings. It was felt that these pre-honours courses would be exceedingly difficult without eReserve.

eReserve is currently being reviewed by the library and students were asked to record their comments about eReserve in the comments section of the course assessment forms so student views can be considered in this process.

Students were encouraged to report problems to they were having with books to the School Academic Liaison Librarian so that if possible items could be purchased or moved in the HUB as appropriate. They were also encouraged to check any websites they wished to make use of with the course organiser or tutor of the course as although some are useful a large number are misleading.

5. Course Assessment Forms

Dr Fraser stressed that the feedback, especially the comments, given on the course assessment forms was looked at closely by the course organisers in order to evaluate and revise the courses.

There was discussion about Question 8, "The tutorials helped me to improve my oral skills" and Question 15, "The use of anonymous marking was beneficial". Anonymous marking is a university regulation to avoid discrimination and students were reminded that it is only at the point of marking that coursework is anonymous and students are encouraged to ask for help before or after they hand in work.

6. A.O.B.

It was noted that the Medieval Scottish History class trip had been very popular.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in semester 2, week 9, date and time to be confirmed.