

**Introduction to Medieval Europe 2B
Staff-Student Liaison Meeting
2nd March 2011 1pm-2pm G.10**

Dr. Steve Boardman (Course Organiser)
Dr. Tom Brown (Tutor)
Dr. Matthew Hammond (Tutor)
Dr. Gianluca Raccagni (Tutor)
Miss Clare Guymer (Course Secretary)
Will Ellis (IME2B student)
Alex Jefferson (IME2B student)

1. Introductions.

Dr. Boardman welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves

2. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

3. Lectures

The following points were raised:

- Sarah Cockram's lectures were given as an example of those which were particularly useful in terms of structure, especially because names and dates were on the PowerPoint presentations she gave. This provided a basic framework for the lecture.
- Difficulty in writing down the names and dates, with lectures shifting and transitioning
- SB stated it was one of the difficulties of a team taught course
- Suggestion that a timeline would be useful, example given of course "Modern Middle Eastern History: Emergence and Encounters", with timelines for specific countries and on broader themes.
- Glossary mentioned as one tool used in a Classics course by Professor Judy Barringer which was helpful
- Suggestion of one introductory book to be recommended and made available, TB stated that this had been debated in previous years. Penguin History used as a starting point, suggestion of possible new book by Charlie Briggs to be used
- No issues with having two lectures a week for this course

4. Tutorials and presentations

- Good reading lists
- Use of a formal circle in GR's tutorial very helpful as everyone has to make a contribution
- Two or three students making a presentation each week and time for discussion afterwards is fine
- More copies of books needed

- UK copyright laws prevent University from producing large course books of photocopies
- More Electronic journals article requested for ease in downloading if books are not accessible
- GR enquiry about electronic access to the Cambridge Medieval History Journal. TB in discussion with Margaret Forrest (School Liaison Librarian) about access to it
- MH recommended Oxford National Dictionary of Biography, available online
- Issue of presentations, need to make sure tutor does clarify points
- TB stated that he does substantiate points in his tutorials and SB stated that the tutors will help to bring out the points raised in the students presentations

Peer assessment

- General comments on grading - very different from model used at United States Universities
- University wide system of grading, occurred post-reform of curriculum approximately five years ago

5. Essays

- Essay topics fine
- Queries about contradictory statements in appendix. Issue of whether footnotes should be included in word count and examples is not made clear.
- SB will investigate and amend for next academic year if necessary

6. Web-CT.

- No issues except frustration at periods when it is maintained by information services limiting access to it

7. Library provision.

- SB asked that CG send an email asking students to recommend useful books, so this can be passed on to the library for extra copies of widely subscribed books to be purchased
- Three hour limit at HUB not very good, although students are often able to find footnoted books on the 4th floor.

8. AOB

No further points were raised. Dr Boardman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.