

**Medieval Scottish History and Modern Scottish History
Staff-Student Liaison Meeting
1st December 2011 4pm-5pm G.09**

Dr. Steve Boardman (Head of Scottish and Medieval Sections)
Dr. James Fraser (Course Organiser, MESH)
Dr. Alex Murdoch (Course Organiser, MOSH)
Miss Clare Guymmer (Course Secretary for MESH and MOSH)
Gavin Cameron (MOSH)
John Davis (MESH)
Kevin Hall (MESH)
Jenny Pittams (MOSH)
Krysten Blackstone (MESH)

Introductions

Apologies

Katherine Nicolai (Tutor, MESH)
Robert Hannah (MOSH)
Sarah Raymont (MOSH)

Lectures

- Extra time needed to get to Old College lecture theatre for MOSH lectures
- Lecture theatre (Old College) seats are small
- MESH students late going into Appleton Tower, held up by previous lecture
- Not ideal having two/three lectures in different places
- KB - connections made by SB at the start and end of the course very helpful for MESH and exam preparation useful
- Two or three lectures per week has been under review, number of lectures adequate with weekly tutorials for MOSH and MESH
- AM - moving away from handouts for MOSH, paperless delivery

Tutorials

- JF – tutorials attendees engaged and participating
- Questions on tutorial sheets complex, have been simplified since 2010-2011
- Difference in way tutorials are taught – focus on sources vs. discussion in groups
- No gobbets in MESH exam, previously used by JF when teaching in Celtic Studies
- KH - PDF downloads good rather than for British History making trips to the library and discovering books are on loan
- GC – good to print out tutorial handouts and scribble on them before the tutorial
- American History 2 has one or two focused readings, rather than long lists, this would be helpful for MOSH

- Introduction of peer assessment of presentations? it would encourage presentations to be taken more seriously. JP – how critical will fellow members of tutor group be?
- Presentations critical in Honours, preparations made ready for this
- AM – circulates draft course monitoring form to tutors for comments

Source Analysis/Essay Proposals/Essays

- Essay proposals very helpful for MESH, JF – imported idea from Celtic Studies, one bad essay could potentially ruin marks, improved essay feedback provided
- JD - students can change essay if on wrong path
- Alternative could be like European History – two assignments due the same day
- JF – added automatic extensions when marking came back late, so students were not disadvantaged
- GC – first time doing source analysis as coursework, previously done in Dr. Julian Goodare's EMSH exam last academic year, good exercise
- Practice for Honours, not on exam, adjusted in response to the students. JP – really enjoyed it
- SB – decision made to retain source analysis in Scottish History curriculum at Edinburgh
- KB - essay proposals specific to tutors, what they are looking for, basics same, mechanics different
- Source analysis – feedback thorough

WebCT

- MESH - everything on there, use it right away. Problems with it freezing and timing out
- JF – different presentation of course handbook, instead of ninety page PDF, smaller chunks broken down, idea from Celtic Civilisation, paperless delivery
- Students experience of other courses: European History two hundred page document for the year and British History the same
- SB - handouts for MESH, to pass them to CG to post on web site
- Genealogy charts could be added to the course WebCT page
- MOSH – everything needed is there
- GC – lecture summaries desirable for MOSH, able to read around them
- Professor Cameron's lecture slides tend to be tables/numbers, summary of notes would be useful
- JP – sometimes problems with links on WebCT, explanation is there has been a change in IP address

Library provision

- KB – three days before MESH essay due, library books recalled
- Disorganisation of books in library
- HUB reserve, books not taken out, short loan better, avoid reserve books, e-reserve preferred
- AM – Library busy, EUSA reps at College and School meeting made staff aware of this issue

- KH – highlighting pens used in library books, has complained to library staff about this and computer users on facebook when there are queues for computers
- CLG – circulated email and Kathy Christie did as well earlier in the week indicating study space around George Square and here in HCA building for use before the exams

AOB

- MOSH – circulation of last year's course monitoring form to reps before SSL – helpful? Yes
- issues of public circulation of honest comments on course monitoring forms, whether this should happen
- Scale of 1-5 rather than Agree/Disagree/Don't Know on course feedback forms