

Final Staff – Student Meeting Minutes
12 May 2010

1. Proposed course, *The International History of the Balkans since 1939: State Projects, Wars, and Social Conflict*

- There are already at least two courses that cover the Balkans in the 20th century, and it is not clear what void this course intends to fill.
- It was suggested that the chronology be expanded, perhaps into the 19th century.
- Given that there are other courses available on the Balkans, there was concern that there may not be enough demand for this course.

2. Dissertations

- There was agreement that the bureaucracy surrounding dissertation titles should be reformed in accordance with the suggestions presented in the Doodlebug document.
- It was requested, in regard to the Columbia/LSE double degree, that the identity of the second marker be revealed after the grading process, so that interested students have the option of discussing their work with him/her further.

3. Advisors

- There was agreement that a student's dissertation advisor and tutor should be the same instructor, and that those assignments should be made during the summer preceding a student's arrival to the LSE.
- It was suggested that instructors provide a short sample of the kinds of dissertations they have supervised in the past.

4. Reducing workload

- Students were pleased with the suggestion that the workload be reduced to a minimum of 2 essays and 1 mock exam. This is expected to result in increased student preparation for seminars.
- Students should, however, be given the option to turn in another essay should they wish.

5. Columbia dissertations

- It was suggested that the staff consider aligning the deadline for submitting Columbia dissertations with the deadline set for all other students.

- There was, however, concern that a December graduation could pose problems to those students continuing on to a PhD in the fall.

In attendance:

Dr. Best
Nayna Bhatti
Lisa
Ronan
Oliver
Brent
Nicole