

Comparative Literature SSLC Agenda

26th March 2019

1-2pm via Microsoft Teams

1. Attendance apologies:

Mohamed Rishard Eddie Omar-Ejjbair (MA)
Miranda Fotheringham (1st Year BA)
Sahra Isha Muhammad Jones (2nd Year BA)
Zaynab Chowdhury and Yagmur Dur+ (3rd Year BA)
Dr Nicola Thomas, Chair
Dr Kasia Mika, Secretary

2. Matters arising, minutes of last meeting

- a) WhatsApp groups for each Year group were created.
- b) Feedback on Offer Holder Days: The course rep (3rd year) remarked that not as many people turned up as expected and also suggested making the content more engaging and interactive. She will seek further feedback from those who helped with the Day.
- c) Outstanding matters:
 - a. Due to the pandemic, some previous actions and proposals necessarily were put on hold. At the Department-level, one such issue to address is intercollegiate modules. Do we know what is the procedure and support for students to take modules elsewhere at UoL? Who is coordinating the communication between the institutions?
 - b. Also, as re-iterated below and with the ever more likely possibility of online teaching in 2020/2021, the Dept will draft a Q-Review policy and guidelines.
 - c. Employability stats to be circulated with students.

	What worked well	What worked less well	Other suggestions
3. Quality of the online content: the forms of e-learning in use, any IT issues etc.	3 rd year: Content-wise online learning worked well enough.	2 nd year remarks: some lectures have not changed their lecture slides; not enough to use the slides that were meant for the traditional 'oral' lecture.	- Draft a Dept wide QReview policy and guidelines so that the students know what they can expect and what resources are available to them.
4. Assessment [item added]	NT: updating on the current procedures to assessment changes process; you won't be penalized, the changes will ensure rigor but also make sure no one misses out on marks	1 st Year: Most people are confused what is happening, what changes (if any) regarding deadlines. There is a shared sense of lack of certainty and anxiety. 2 nd Year: Many had to go back home, don't live here. Still, not enough info about EC (on the grounds of the pandemic)+ applying for it. MA Rep: Essays still need to be submitted, but the lack of access to the library is a real issue (secondary reading is needed for all pieces of work; not everything is available in e-book format).	
5. Ease of use of the technologies	Technologies used: e-mail (works OK); Blackboard collaborate; Skype; Whatsapp group (PhD students)	Advisors absent to illness for prolonged period of time: the question remains what are our backup plans in such a situation (to be discussed at Dept level).	-Contingency plan for advisors' absence to be discussed at Dept level.
6. Experience of group work and group discussions	None.		

7. Access to library resources and any course-specific software	n/a	3 rd year: Hard copies of books are needed but there are no digital versions available. This lack of access to resources is also affecting MA/PGR students.	Recommendation to look online. There is plenty available in e-versions via QMUL Catalogue, and other sources (e.g. British Library/Senate House) to which we have access.
8. Experience of online assessments	n/a		
9. Advising / pastoral support arrangements	-Very good stepping in of deputising Head of Dept, in the absence.	-General remark on the deficit of advising and pastoral support remarked due to staff illness. -1 st Year: First year students still don't know what is going on with their year. A suggestion was made for more reassuring communication needed, especially at School and Departmental levels (e.g. what are we putting in place to mitigate the effects of the pandemic). The joint honours students also remark disparity between SLLF and, for example, School of History. -3 rd : Similar disparity was noted with English informing what the School is doing to mitigate the pandemic. Also, there is a high level of anxiety regarding support available to students as to what to do after graduation.	
10. Support from academic supervisors on projects / dissertations		-3 rd : year: There was a general discontent remarked about the compounded effects of industrial action and the pandemic on students' final year projects. There is a sentiment expressed that the 2 weeks extension for final projects is not enough	

		<p>-PhDs: carrying on with their work. There is an uncertainty whether there will be some extension to the PhD process and progress reports. This depends on the UKRI decision.</p>	
<p>11. Consideration of potential changes to content, modules and course delivery methods for the next academic year</p>			

12. AOB