SSCC Meeting – 13th April 2017

Present: Prof R Burgoyne, Dr L Donaldson (DoT), Dr E Girelli, Prof D Iordanova, Dr A Jain (EO), Dr J O'Meara, Dr L Torchin, Kit Klaes, Ronan Davies, Fi Pollack, Tommy Rowe, Gabrielle Levey, Catherine Sweeney, Laszlo Szegedi
Apologies: Dr M Cowan, Ruby Eleftheriotis, Lucy Ralston, Connor McMorran

Matters Arising
The Department thanked all the students involved with the Film Blitz, which ran very successfully this year. Prof Burgoyne reported back that the top 5 teams have been invited to Edinburgh to visit the set of Russo’s Avengers.

The DoT thanked Kit for serving as an excellent President for two years, and welcomed Gaby as the incoming president. The DoT also thanked all the class representatives for their excellent work this year.

Sub-Honours Class Reports

1st Year
- Absent

2nd Years
- Positive Feedback:
  o Workload is both manageable and interesting
  o Tutorials have been very helpful
  o Positive reception of lecturers
- Areas for Improvement
  o The first journal entry was difficult for some but more understandable once the second one came around.
  o Access to online readings when not on Eduroam. Dr Torchin underlined this is a library access issue, and something to be aware of/report back to the library.
  o Students would like an emphasis on practical application of theory to films, in order to be best prepared for the essay.

Honors Class Reports

Film Sound
- Very positive feedback on the whole
- Students were curious about office hours for the final paper – Dr Donaldson pointed out this was addressed both in the module guide and Kit Klaes agreed that this had been mentioned during class.
- People were interested in having handouts to coincide with presentations; response from others on the module: students write-up their own material and should therefore not need a handout. Module convenor will consider this as an option for the future.

British Cinema
- Very positive feedback on the whole
- One student concerned with the amount of viewing. Class reps responded that when taking film studies, students should expect a few hours of film a week as part of their independent work.

**War & Cinema**
- Very positive feedback on the whole, and the Enchanted versus Disenchanted violence has been a great overall theme for the course
- Length of presentations vary and should maybe be timed more stringently
- Second marker for the presentation didn't see the presentation, just the write-up
  Possible options/issues outlined:
  - Filming/recording presentations could work, but the issue of comfort/increased anxiety could be a problem
  - Discrepancy between presentation content and content of write-up – this can be addressed in the module guide
  - Another option would be to split the weighting of assessment between 10% (presentation) and 10% (write-up)?

**Film and Fashion**
- People love the class but brought up that films and readings are rarely discussed in depth.
- Many readings are in short loan and make it difficult as students compete for them. Prof Iordanova suggested that next time, the reading list will take account of the limitations of digitisation
- 4000 word essay is generating some stress, with students feeling that there is a big jump in weighting from 20 percent to 50 percent. One option to ameliorate this issue, would be that perhaps the second Tumblr post should be worth 20 percent so the essay can become 40. The DoT thanked the class for this feedback, which the Department can bear in mind beyond this specific module
- **ACTION:** Prof Iordanova will offer office hours for students so they feel more comfortable with the research essay.

**PG Class Reports**

**PGRs**
- Faulty PC and printer
  - **RESPONSE:** Contact IT services
  - **ACTION:** DoT will speak with Mike Arrowsmith about the PC
- Tutors have expressed concern with the number of handouts/paper waste
  - Could we go paperless?
  - **ACTION:** first and second year student reps to send out a poll to classmates and find out who uses the handouts.

**MLitt**
- Presentations for the dissertations were really good a great way to dive in to the topics
- Semester 1 classes were directly related to assessments, while Semester 2 classes were less directly related to assessments.
  Responses from discussion between staff and students:
More assessments could be included to make the weeks more cohesive
Important to point out that it might just be a difference in what/how they are learning
Semester 2 is about making your own choices, not being herded by the module
Perhaps the assessments should be more linked to the module and not as independent

Enhancement Theme Funding Call
- University-wide funding opportunity for events, projects, etc. about transition (School to university, sub-honours to honours, etc.)
- Up to £1000
- Students can be involved, and it would be nice if they were – the DoT encouraged student participation on this
- Ideas:
  - More filmmaking workshops; (There’s a new filmmaking society that has plans for next year). However, editing software is expensive, goes beyond the scope of this funding opportunity. There could be a pioneering project to start the process of getting more practical equipment/support (which would feed into teaching as well as outside activities, and thereby assist in transitions from UG to PG/work)?
  - ACTION: send any other ideas to the DoT, who will see what can be done for the possibility of setting up something around editing training.

Future Additional Agenda Items
- We plan to implement an additional agenda item to each SSCC agenda to make it more than a class report.
- Idea: for s1 meeting - Library, bring in library representatives
- ACTION: Additional ideas: send to DoT or Kit.

AOB
- National Student Survey
  - Very high completion rate so far, but we will once again encourage students to complete it. ACTION: 4th year reps to encourage students to complete.
- Module Questionnaires
  - ACTION: class representatives to encourage students to complete them
- Exam Workshops for 2002 and 1002
  - Best time for 2002 would be 1st week of revision. ACTION: workshops to be scheduled in week 12.
- Students want to go on field trips
  - Film and Fashion is bringing in an interesting speaker in week 11, Film and the Archive offers a field trip to an archive.
  - Potential to take the bus to Dundee for screenings at the DCA? ACTION: DoT to explore this as an option, and the Dept to discuss field trips at the next teaching meeting.