From: Earle, Rebecca <Rebecca.Earle@warwick.ac.uk>
Sent: 26 November 2019 11:40
To: HistoryOffice, Resource <HistoryOffice@warwick.ac.uk>
Subject: UCU industrial action

Dear Warwick UG and PG History and Joint-Degree Students,

As the strike enters its second day I wanted to update you on some on some of the departmental and university-wide developments. There is also a good deal of information on UCU, the Student Union, and University web pages. As you will know, this is a national event that is taking place on university campuses across the UK.

I’d like, also, to thank you for the many constructive messages that I’ve received about the strike and its impact. It would be surprising if you did not have questions and concerns, and I hope you will continue to voice them, to me, and to everyone else involved in these events. I am proud of the way our respectful and positive community is responding to this situation.

Departmental FAQs, etc.

We have set up a website with departmental information on the strike. It lists some of the measures we’re putting in place to ensure you receive as much support as possible during this period, such as moving deadlines for the assessments due in week 10.

I believe that many colleagues have already let you know if they are going to be on strike, and we’ve also asked all teaching staff to let the History UG office know if they will be cancelling teaching, so that we can pass this information on to you. That said, UCU members have a legal, democratic right to take industrial action, and are not obliged to give the Department advance notice of their intention to strike.

It’s worth noting that the department remains open during the strike and you are welcome to come in to discuss any concerns you might have with the team in the History UG office (H322) HistoryOffice@warwick.ac.uk), History PG office (H341) PGHistoryOffice@warwick.ac.uk), or with me.

Teach-outs

During the strike, you will notice that staff and students from the History Department will be offering 'Teach Out’ sessions. These are interdisciplinary activities open to all, which aim to help build ideas and challenge assumptions about what education is, and how and where it happens.
Your marks

You may be worried about how the strike might affect your grades. The changes in assessment, etc., are intended to prevent their being adversely affected. During the 2017-18 strike, we reviewed the marks in all strike-affected modules for the last five years, and compared the 2017-18 marks with those of previous years. We found that marks had not been affected. We also looked at students’ grades from year to year to see whether averages had been impacted, and again found that degree classifications and average marks did not differ from those in previous years. If we do find that marks on a particular module have been negatively impacted, we will take action by scaling marks. ‘Scaling’ means the adjustment of marks for an entire module cohort carried out on a particular assessment item so that the marks better reflect the achievement of the students as defined by our mark descriptors.

Wellbeing

These are unsettled times and I can imagine that this might be affecting your wellbeing. The Wellbeing Services team can offer all sorts of support; please don’t hesitate to contact them if you are concerned about your overall wellbeing. I’d also be very happy to meet with you if you’d like to discuss anything, whether strike-related or not. You can email me (r.earle@warwick.ac.uk) for an appointment.

very best

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This week’s potato quote is from the ‘Blind date’ column in The Guardian, 28 Sept. 2019.

‘Any awkward moments?

He talked at length about Fleabag, which I had heard of but knew nothing about. I must have looked like a glazed, uncultured potato.’


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