

Title of lecture: MPhil – SOURCE STUDIES (Lent Term 2015)

Response from: Susan Rankin (10th March 2015)

(8 students, and all attended all sessions)

Numerical evaluation

	5	4	3	2	=	5	4	3	2
Content	2	2	4			25%	25%	50%	
Delivery	3	4		1		37.5%	50%		12.5%
Audio-visual aids	4	2	1	1		50%	25%	12.5%	12.5%
Averages	Content 3.75 / Delivery 4.125 / A-V aids 4.125								
Overall average	4								

There was one consistent response in the questionnaires, voiced in different ways: students wanted more guidance, more sessions delivered by SKR, and a more shaped trajectory in their progression.

I accept and agree that the students could have benefitted from more guidance: I should have delivered at least one more introductory session. After this it could have been useful to have a session in between the guest sessions to pick up some of the ongoing methodological questions. I also take the students' point about structure. However, it was an explicit aim of the course to expose students to the breadth of methodology available for the study of sources, and to expand their conception of what a musical source is. Rather than reducing the breadth of coverage, the call for firmer structure might better be addressed by taking a more schematic approach within each session: defining a set of questions to be asked about each kind of source, and each methodology, as the term progresses. Guest specialists serve an important function in demonstrating the capacious reach of source studies.

It may be worth saying that the course was presented as in previous years, and we have never had this kind of response before. But, as I have said above, I do agree with much of what has been said. I will make sure the Graduate Committee is made aware of the strength of the response, and that the purpose of the course is communicated to the students through a more structured approach to each session. To make this work, it will be important to know much further in advance which students are planning to attend: this must be addressed administratively by the MPhil conveners.

Meanwhile I am delighted that so many people enjoyed the visit to the BL: since our host, Nicolas Bell, has just been appointed librarian of Trinity College, I think that it may have been the last such occasion (unfortunately).