September 2016

To: First Term Seniors  
From: Anya Bassett  
Re: Senior Meeting, Requirements, and Petitions

As the course head for Social Studies 99, the Senior Thesis in Social Studies, it is my pleasure to welcome you back for your senior year.

I will be holding a mandatory meeting for all first semester seniors on Thursday, September 1st at 3:30 p.m. in William James Hall B1 to discuss your senior honors theses. I will be reviewing the calendar for the year, providing information about the structure of a senior thesis, and describing the resources that are available for senior thesis writers. Please make every effort to attend this meeting, as I will not repeat this information in another venue.

In the meantime, please make note of the following information:

Completing Social Studies Requirements

In preparing your program of study for this year, you need to make sure that you will be able to complete all Social Studies and College requirements for graduation. If you have any outstanding requirements in Social Studies (in addition to Social Studies 99), you and your academic advisor should receive an email from Kate Anable by Friday, August 26th listing any Social Studies requirements that remain. Please review this email carefully and discuss it with your academic advisor, who will not release your study card until he or she is confident that you will be able to complete your program this year.

Petitioning to “Unconc” courses for a secondary field

Social Studies seniors can petition the Board of Instruction to “unconc” a course or courses in a social science or history department for use in a secondary field. Please note that you can only “unconc” courses for this purpose. To petition, fill out an “unconc” form (part of this registration packet), secure your advisor’s signature, and bring it to the Social Studies office by Wednesday, October 5th. The Board of Instruction will review your form and let you know if your petition can be approved by mid-November.

Urgent Petitions for Approved Focus Fields

Some seniors find a fall course that they want to substitute for a previously approved focus field course. If you are in this situation, and you wouldn’t take this course unless you are sure that it can be part of your focus field, you can submit an “urgent petition” to the Social Studies Board of Instruction on Friday, September 2nd. We will review petitions that day and let you know by the end of the day if we can approve the course. Please note that due to the quick turnaround, we can’t review entirely new focus fields. In addition, if you would take the course whether or not it is approved as part of your final focus field, please don’t submit an urgent petition.