

**TO: Social Studies Sophomores**  
**FROM: Anya Bassett, Director of Undergraduate Studies**  
**RE: Sophomore Advising**  
**DATE: January 2015**

Welcome back, and a warm and official welcome to Social Studies! I look forward to getting to know you over the next two and a half years. The purpose of this memo is to explain how the advising system works in Social Studies.

All Social Studies students are assigned an academic advisor in Social Studies. You will start with the person who is your Social Studies 10 tutor. At the end of your sophomore year, I will ask you whether you would like to stay with your current advisor, assuming that he or she will be teaching again in Social Studies, or whether you would like a new advisor. About two-thirds of students elect to stay with their current advisor. If you would like a new advisor, I will ask you what your intellectual interests are, and will try to assign you to an advisor who shares these interests.

I suggest that you meet with your advisor twice during the shopping period; once, to discuss course selections and a second time to have your study card signed. I ask that you get your study card signed by the advisor assigned to you, as that individual is familiar with your academic record. Your academic advisor should have plenty of office hours before study cards are due (Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>).

In preparation for your first official meeting with your academic advisor, please write a short essay describing your academic interests and providing other information that your advisor should know in order to do a good job advising you. Please include details about your background, interests outside of the classroom, and work habits. And please answer the following questions: (1) what would make this upcoming semester a success for you? (2) what challenges do you expect to face this semester?

Please email your essay as a word attachment to your advisor by 8 p.m. the night before your first advising meeting or at a mutually agreed upon time. I hope that your essay will help structure your first advising conversation and will facilitate good communication between you and your advisor.

I strongly recommend that you remain in contact with your advisor throughout the year, either in person or via email. While I ask advisors to email their students for updates on their progress, I also ask students to initiate contact as well.