

**TO: Social Studies Students**  
**FROM: Anya Bassett, Director of Undergraduate Studies**  
**RE: Academic Advising**  
**DATE: August 2021**

Welcome back!

All Social Studies students are assigned an academic advisor in Social Studies. Students start with the person who is their Social Studies 10 tutor and remain with that advisor unless that person leaves Social Studies or the student asks to be reassigned. I reassign students who need new advisors each summer, making every effort to assign students to advisors with whom they have already worked or who share their intellectual interests.

You need to meet with your academic advisor at least once during the Course Registration Period to get acquainted (or reacquainted), discuss your experience at Harvard so far, and discuss requirements, your focus field and plan of study, and course selection for this term. Following this meeting, your advisor will “release” your advising hold so that you can register for classes.

**In preparation for your first meeting of the year with your academic advisor, please write a short essay describing your academic interests and providing information that your advisor should know in order to do a good job advising you.** If you are new to this advising relationship, offer details about yourself (your background, interests, work habits). If you have already worked with your advisor, provide an update, including information that your advisor may not already have (summer experiences, changes in your family situation, your thesis progress). Please list any questions or concerns you have and describe your goals for this year. How do you hope to grow and change?

**Please send your essay to your advisor via email by 8 p.m. the night before your first advising meeting.** I hope that this assignment will help structure your first advising conversation and facilitate good communication between you and your advisor.

We encourage you to stay in close touch with your academic advisor throughout your time in Social Studies. We pride ourselves on strong advising relationships and we think they will be even more important this year.