

TO: Social Studies Sophomores
FROM: Anya Bassett, Director of Undergraduate Studies
RE: Sophomore Advising
DATE: January 2020

Welcome back, and welcome to Social Studies! This memo explains how the academic advising system works in Social Studies.

All Social Studies students are assigned an individual academic advisor in Social Studies. You will start with the person who is your Social Studies 10b tutor. At the end of your sophomore year, I will ask you whether you would like to stay with your current advisor, assuming they 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 to have a new advisor, I will try to assign you to an advisor who shares your intellectual interests.

You should plan to connect with your advisor twice during shopping period. At your first meeting, which must be in-person, you can get acquainted (or reacquainted), discuss your experience at Harvard so far, and discuss requirements, academic interests, and course selection for this term. After the meeting, your advisor will release the hold in my.harvard so that you can register for classes. We encourage you to meet with your advisor a second time as you finalize course selection. If this is not possible, you should check in with them via email or phone.

In preparation for your first meeting of the semester with your academic advisor, please write a short essay describing your academic interests and listing goals, questions, concerns, and other information your advisor should know in order to do a good job advising you. If you are new to your relationship with your advisor, offer details about yourself (your background, your interests, your work habits). If you have already worked with your advisor, provide them with an update, including information that they may not already have (a description of other courses you took last semester, changes in your family situation). And please answer the following questions: How do you hope to change and grow this semester? What would make this semester a success for you (however you define success)?

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.

We strongly encourage you to remain in contact with your advisor throughout the semester. Your advisor will reach out to check in and schedule a meeting, but we also encourage you to reach out to them with questions, concerns, or just to talk.