

Dear Students,

As you come to the end of the first week of spring semester, I hope this message finds you energized and excited about what is ahead. Just three weeks ago, the world witnessed an assault of the democratic process in the U.S., but last week struck an entirely different chord with the inauguration of a new administration including the first woman, the first African-American, and the first Asian-American Vice President in Kamala Harris. This year will certainly continue to bring the unexpected, but I hope you are all starting to make out the faint, but growing, light on the horizon as we all look forward to the end of what has been a long, tumultuous time.

I write to remind you of the innumerable supports available to you should you ever need it. As I stated in my [message](#) from early January, **HGSE is here for you**. Faculty and staff are prepared to provide support and are committed to making this semester a productive and engaging one. Though we are still working to find ways to grow and deepen our sense of community as we all work remotely, I also have heard from many of you how your peers have been incredible sources of encouragement, insight, and good humor.

I look forward to connecting with many of you over the next several months through the many engagements we have in store. In that vein, I am happy to announce upcoming study break sessions I will be hosting. As a reminder, these are small, informal opportunities for us to connect and for you to get to meet some of your fellow students. There is no set agenda, and you are welcome to share your thoughts and questions. The first set of Dean's Study Breaks for the spring semester will be:

- Monday, February 8, 4:30pm - 5:30pm EST
- Monday, February 22, 12:00pm - 1:00pm EST
- Tuesday, March 2, 8:00am - 9:00am EST

If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please use the Qualtrics form linked [here](#) by Thursday, February 4th, 5:00pm EST. If interest exceeds the number of available slots, then we will use a lottery system based on your availability. We hope to send out notifications to those we can accommodate by Friday, February 5th.

I will continue to host study breaks and be involved in other events over the course of the semester, so if these times do not work for you or we are unable to include you at this time, look for future announcements. Please email Marketa Crandle at marketa_crandle@gse.harvard.edu should you have any other questions.

Best of luck for a productive semester and a hopeful 2021.

Best,
Bridget

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