Dear Autumn 2023 participants in the Art and Politics - On Friendship and the Political Imaginary course,

Welcome to the 2023 free standing course (FKAKPO) Art and Politics - On Friendship and the Political Imaginary

After you read this email can you send me a return email, just saying that you received this information, please.

**The first meeting is next Tuesday 5 September at 16:00 to 18:30 CET** (with a break in the middle)

(all times are specified as CET , Swedish local time)

We will meet on ZOOM at <https://gu-se.zoom.us/j/64061139885>

This zoom address will be used for all our meetings as part of the course.

**STARTING BY SAYING “Hi, my name is…”**

We start the meeting by each person saying “hi” and doing a very short intro:

* Hi, my name is… *<insert your first name>*
* I am currently based in … *<insert the place where you are right now>*
* My previous studies were in … *<insert the name of one or more subjects that you have studied before>*

(in later meetings, we will have a chance to do longer introductions, and talk about our interests etc.)

**TOPICS COVERED IN FIRST MEETING**

In this first meeting I will then go through:

* What is the course about, and why we have chosen the question of friendship / “the friend”
* What do we mean by the “political imaginary”
* How the course is structured, and what will happen in each meeting, and some of the guests that we will meet
* How you can access reading materials and other sources used in the course
* What you are requested to do as a course participant (reading, presenting, attending a face-to-face intensive etc.)
* Practical and planning issues (dates, registration problems …)
* How we are going to use the next two meetings to introduce ourselves
* The proposed background agreement on how we will work together for this course that I ask you to consider

The schedule of the course, previously published advance information form Spring 2023, is here:  <https://canvas.gu.se/eportfolios/786/PUBLIC_INFORMATION_PAGE/Friendship_FKAKPO>

Scroll down for the draft schedule. I will go through this in more detail in our first meeting.

In our first meeting, I will also gather up any questions that you may have, and try to get the answers that you are looking for as best I can.

I will make a recording of the information part of this session also. It will be available a few days later online, and I will email you the address to access it.

**Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 September**

We then have second and third meetings on Wednesday 6 September 16:00-18:30 and Thursday 7  16:00-19:30\* where we will do a longer round of introductions.

It is easiest if I communicate in our first meeting, how we will do our introductions in these following meetings.

I guess you will probably have many questions for me. Let’s work through them together when we meet next Tuesday.