1. General updates in the program
   o Nia Crosley as graduate coordinator, working with Yvette Vasquez, new administrative assistant
   o Dr. Matt Richardson, chair of the Graduate Studies Committee and Graduate Program Committee
   o Dr. João Vargas, AADS graduate advisor
   o Note: your faculty advisor should guide you in terms of who you should talk to regarding any question.

2. Spring 2015 registration
   o The course schedule prints on 10/15, and you can register 10/27-11/7
   o “Preview” lists of outside methods and AADS courses (handouts)
   o Your degree plan: a “first pass” was done by the graduate coordinator – she emailed it to you and you can come pick up a paper copy from her office if you prefer.
     ▪ Check your current degree plan with your advisor to make sure any classes transferred in are okayed (Dr. Vargas, grad advisor, must make final confirmation)
   o Your faculty advisor should guide you as to what classes you should take each semester, these sheets are meant to guide you.

3. Qualifying Exams process
   o Handout
   o General notes
     ▪ Your advisor has a lot of influence on the structure, content, and “limits” of your exam (e.g. page limits, time limits, etc). AADS provides basic guidelines, but you and your advisor/committee chair should work together to “fill in the blanks”
     ▪ Utilize your advisor to practice as much as possible these skills before you head into exams. Consider asking to lead a lecture, for instance.
All of your work in the program should build! Choose courses wisely and do work in them that will help you towards your exam/dissertation goals.

4. Master’s Report process
   o Handout
   o General notes
     ▪ Again, your advisor has a lot of say as to the structure, feel, content, etc of the pieces of your report.
     ▪ Look at the MA reports of Gustavo Cerqueira and Abimbola Adelakun (available on the UT library website) for examples of the process.

5. Professional development expectations/process
   o Handouts:
     ▪ professional development overview
     ▪ selection of fellowships and their due dates
   o Outside funding can take the pressure off your writing/research time later in the PhD
   o AADS requires you to apply for two outside grants/fellowships during your time in the program
   o The academic profession requires you to be proactive about applying for funding: we’re here to guide you and get you started, not to complete the process for you
   o Ford is due 11/19: we’re holding a workshop on 10/13 that is mandatory for students to attend (separate email with more information sent 10/7/14)