Dear Students,

The main objective of next week’s meetings is to assess your current performance and warm you up for the oral exam.

I will ask you the following questions:

- How are you organizing your thesis documents?
- How are you reading papers, taking notes and writing summaries?
- Has the thesis been a productive experience so far? Is there any room to make it even more productive?
- Have you had a chance to show your full potential so far? What are the constraints? What are the prospects?
- What particular papers have been read so far and to what extent? You will be asked a number of questions on the papers you have read.
- If you were to evaluate your performance so far by giving yourself a score between 0 and 100 what would that be? You do not need to convey it to me, thinking about it would suffice.

After we address the above items, we will continue with the following questions.

- What is your research question? What are the main issues surrounding the question?
- What is the motivation for the question? Why is it important to investigate?
- What is the institutional/historical framework with regards to the issues surrounding the question?
- Has this question been addressed in the literature? What does the literature say about it?
- Is your question an original question? If so, what makes it original?
- How do you plan to investigate your question? What exactly is your methodology? Does it have any foundations from the literature? Do you have your own twist? Does your twist have solid economic foundations?
- Do you know the data sources relevant to your research?
- What can we learn from your research? Will it help us design better economic policy? Will it help us improve our understanding of the real world?
- What are your broad plans to complete the thesis?

Have a great weekend,

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