Women's and Gender Studies

The Women’s and Gender Studies program (http://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/humanities-course-22) offers students an academic framework for the study of women, gender, and sexuality using the analytical tools and methodologies of a variety of disciplines in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. It includes a minimum of seven subjects (84 units) beyond WGS.101 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies, WGS.301[J] Feminist Thought, the pre-thesis tutorial (21.THT), and thesis (21.THT). However, students may request a two-class substitution for the pre-thesis/thesis requirement for a total of 11 courses in that case.

Up to six subjects (72 units) may be used for both the major and the GIRs, but the units from those subjects may not count toward the 180 units required beyond the GIRs. No more than one subject that counts toward the distribution component of the HASS Requirement may also be counted toward the requirements of the Women’s and Gender Studies program. In addition, at least eight of the subjects required for the program cannot count toward any other major or minor.

The list of restricted electives below is not exhaustive. Students interested in this interdisciplinary program should consult with the Women’s and Gender Studies program manager, Sophia Hasenfus (shasen@mit.edu), Room 14E-316, 617-253-2642, and then arrange a meeting with the current director, Professor Elizabeth Wood (elizwood@mit.edu).

Restricted Electives

Tier I

WGS.101 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (Required)

Tier II

Select seven subjects, including at least one from each category below:

**Humanities (HASS-H) and Arts (HASS-A) subjects**

- WGS.109 Women and Global Activism in Media and Politics
- WGS.110[J] Sexual and Gender Identities
- WGS.111[J] Gender and Media Studies
- WGS.115 Gender and Technology
- WGS.123 The History of Women in Science and Engineering
- WGS.140[J] Race and Identity in American Literature
- WGS.141[J] International Women’s Voices
- WGS.142 Narrative and Identity: Writing and Film by Contemporary Women of Color
- WGS.145[J] Globalization: The Good, the Bad and the In-Between
- WGS.154[J] Gender and Japanese Popular Culture
- WGS.161[J] Gender and the Law in US History
- WGS.181 Queer Cinema and Visual Culture
- WGS.190[J] Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies
- WGS.220[J] Women and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa
- WGS.226[J] Science, Gender and Social Inequality in the Developing World
- WGS.231[J] Writing about Race
- WGS.233[J] New Culture of Gender: Queer France
- WGS.234[J] The Invention of French Theory: A History of Transatlantic Intellectual Life since 1945
- WGS.236[J] Introduction to East Asian Cultures: From Zen to K-Pop
- WGS.240[J] Jane Austen
- WGS.245[J] Identities and Intersections: Queer Literatures

**Social Science (HASS-S) subjects**

- WGS.125[J] Games and Culture
- WGS.151 Gender, Medicine, and Public Health
- WGS.172[J] For Love and Money: Rethinking the Family
- WGS.221 Women in the Developing World
- WGS.222[J] Women and War
- WGS.223 Race, Gender and Social Inequality: Reproductive Health Care in the United States
- WGS.225[J] The Science of Race, Sex, and Gender
- WGS.228 Psychology of Sex and Gender
- WGS.229 Race, Culture, and Gender in the US and Beyond: A Psychological Perspective
- WGS.250[J] HIV/AIDS in American Culture
- WGS.270[J] Violence, Human Rights, and Justice
- WGS.271[J] Dilemmas in Biomedical Ethics: Playing God or Doing Good?
- WGS.274[J] Images of Asian Women: Dragon Ladies and Lotus Blossoms
- WGS.275[J] Gender, Race, and Environmental Justice
WGS.276[J] Cultures of Computing

**Tier III**

WGS.301[J] Feminist Thought (Required)
WGS.310[J] Gender: Historical Perspectives

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1. *One of the Tier II subjects may be taken at Harvard or Wellesley with the permission of the director.*

2. *Subjects 21L.430, 21L.460, 21L.512, 21L.702, 21L.704, 21L.705, 21L.715, and 21W.745 may be taken for credit as a Women’s and Gender Studies subject when their content meets WGS criteria. For more information, consult the program office (wgs@mit.edu).*

3. *With the permission of the director, an advanced Women’s and Gender Studies subject may be substituted for WGS.301[J].*