A course is a course, of course, except when it is a subject. At MIT course numbers and abbreviations refer to courses of study leading to specific academic degrees and, by extension, to the departments or programs offering those degrees. For example, Course 6 refers to the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Subjects are what many people typically think of as courses, i.e., a series of classes offered during a given academic period.

These descriptions are current but are subject to change. For schedules, consult the Online Subject Listing and Schedule. To view a series of classes offered during a given academic period.

SUBJECTS

How to Read Subject Descriptions

A subject description consists of four parts:

- Subject name (p. 4)
- Subject information (p. 4)
- Subject content (p. 5)
- Instructor(s) (p. 5)


**Examples:**

**11.003[J] Methods of Policy Analysis**
Same subject as 17.303[J]
Prereq: 11.002[J]; Coreq: 14.01
Acad Year 2017-2018: U (Spring)
Acad Year 2018-2019: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides students with an introduction to public policy analysis. Examines various approaches to policy analysis by considering the concepts, tools, and methods used in economics, political science, and other disciplines. Students apply and critique these approaches through case studies of current public policy problems.

**Staff**

**20.110[J] Thermodynamics of Biomolecular Systems**
Same subject as 2.772[J]
Prereq: Calculus II (GIR), Chemistry (GIR), Physics I (GIR)
U (Fall, Spring)
5-0-7 units. REST


*Fall: M. Birnbaum C. Voigt*
*Spring: E. Alm, C. Voigt*

**Subject Name**
The subject name consists of its number and title.

**Degree** | **Program**
--- | ---
A "J" in brackets appears at the end of a subject number to indicate that it is jointly offered by or cross-listed with more than one department.

(New) | Follows the subject number and title to indicate a subject that is new in the current academic year.

(###.####) | If a subject has been renumbered, its former number appears after the title in parentheses.

**Subject Information**
The subject information section may include the following:

**Offered under** Appears in parentheses, with all the cross-listed subject numbers that comprise a School-Wide Elective (SWE); this type of listing is unique to the School of Engineering.

**Subject meets with** Denotes a subject that is taught with one or more subjects at a different level, or with all or a significant part of one or more subjects at the same level. Subjects that meet together have different coursework requirements.

**Prereq:** Introduces prerequisites (additional prereqs may be listed in the subject content). Students who have not completed the stated prerequisites must obtain the instructor’s permission to register. Prerequisites are listed before corequisites, which are subjects that must be taken simultaneously with the subject described and are introduced by "Coreq:" and noted in italics. A list of prerequisites with no additional text denotes that all of the subjects in a series are required, for example:

Prereq: 6.021[J], 6.034, 6.046[J], 18.417

The use of "or" denotes that just one of a series of prerequisites is required. When there are more than two options, commas are used, for example:

Prereq: 7.03, 7.05, 7.06, or 7.28

A semicolon is used to separate individual prerequisites from one of a series of prerequisites, or to separate several series of prerequisites, for example:

Prereq: 6.008 or 6.046[J]; 18.06

Implicit prerequisites are not listed. For example, it is not necessary to list 7.05 as a prerequisite if 7.06 is already listed.

Because there are multiple versions of the subjects that satisfy General Institute Requirements (GIRs) in Science, those subjects are identified as GIRs when they appear as prerequisites and corequisites. The subjects that currently fulfill each requirement are listed below:

**Acad Year** May indicate "2017–2018: Not offered" or "2018–2019: Not offered." There is no comment if the subject is offered in both academic years.

U or G, plus (Fall, IAP, Spring, and/or Summer) Indicates a subject’s level and the terms in which it is offered. U denotes an undergraduate subject; G denotes a graduate subject. IAP is MIT’s Independent Activities Period, which takes place in January.
| Subject Content | If a description of the subject content is not given, the associated subject number under which the description can be found appears instead. Any subject open only to special groups is so noted at the end of its content description. |
| Instructor(s) | The name of the instructor(s) or department contact appears in italics at the end of the subject description. |