

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCE (COURSE 21S)

Department of Humanities (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/humanities/#undergraduatetext>)

Bachelor of Science in Humanities and Science

As a matter of general Course 21 policy, subjects used to meet the General Institute Science Requirement, the REST Requirement, and the Laboratory Requirement may not be included in the six-subject Science component of 21S degrees. 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. In addition, no more than one subject that counts toward the distribution component of the HASS Requirement may also be counted toward this major. At least eight of the subjects required for the chosen program cannot also count toward another major or a minor.

Students must designate two CI-M subjects by petitioning the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement. Normally, students are expected to complete one CI-M from each area of study, usually chosen from the subjects designated as CI-M for each major.

General Institute Requirements (GIRs)

The General Institute Requirements include a Communication Requirement that is integrated into both the HASS Requirement and the requirements of each major; see details below.

Summary of Subject Requirements	Subjects
Science Requirement	6
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement [between three and six subjects can be from the Departmental Program. Only one subject being used to meet the distribution component of the HASS Requirement may be counted toward the degree program.]; at least two of these subjects must be designated as communication-intensive (CI-H) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.	8
Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST) Requirement	2
Laboratory Requirement (12 units)	1
Total GIR Subjects Required for SB Degree	17

Physical Education Requirement

Swimming requirement, plus four physical education courses for eight points.

Departmental Program

Choose at least two subjects in the major that are designated as communication-intensive (CI-M) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.

Restricted Electives	Units
For the humanities component, one of the following (further details may be obtained from the descriptions of programs in specific fields and the relevant field office):	81-114
African and African Diaspora Studies ¹	
American Studies ¹	
Ancient and Medieval Studies ¹	
Anthropology	
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies ¹	
Comparative Media Studies	
Global Studies and Languages (in French, German, or Spanish)	
History	
Latin American and Latino/a Studies ¹	
Literature	
Music	
Russian and Eurasian Studies ¹	
Science, Technology, and Society (STS)	
Theater Arts	
Women's and Gender Studies ¹	
Writing	
For the science component, select six elective subjects restricted to one of the science curricula and approved by a faculty member in the field.	54-72
Units in Major	135-186
Unrestricted Electives²	48-117
Units in Major That Also Satisfy the GIRs	(36-72)
Total Units Beyond the GIRs Required for SB Degree	180

The units for any subject that counts as one of the 17 GIR subjects cannot also be counted as units required beyond the GIRs.

¹ *African and African Diaspora Studies, American Studies, Ancient and Medieval Studies, Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies, Latin American and Latino/a Studies, Russian and Eurasian Studies and Women's and Gender Studies are also available as options within the Course 21 degree program (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/humanities-course-21>), by special arrangement with the Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.*

² *This chart has been calculated based on an overlap of 36 units (three subjects) between the HASS General Institute Requirement and the departmental requirements. Students who develop a program of study with more overlap will be able to select more unrestricted electives to meet the number of total units beyond the GIRs required for an SB degree.*

Restricted Electives: Humanities Component (by area of study)**African and African Diaspora Studies**

Select seven elective subjects that follow the general structure of the Minor ¹	63-84
21.THT Humanities Pre-Thesis Tutorial ¹	6
21.THU Undergraduate Thesis in Humanities	12
Total Units	81-102

¹ See the minor in African and African Diaspora Studies (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/minor-african-studies>) for a list of available subjects and a description of the structure of the program.

American Studies

Select seven elective subjects that follow the structure of the Minor ¹	63-84
21.THT Humanities Pre-Thesis Tutorial ²	6
21.THU Undergraduate Thesis in Humanities	12
Total Units	81-102

¹ See the minor in American Studies (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/minor-american-studies>) for a list of available subjects and a description of the structure of the program.

² With the consent of the faculty advisor, a student may substitute two subjects for 21.THT and 21.THU.

Ancient and Medieval Studies

Select seven elective subjects that follow the general structure of the Minor ¹	63-84
21.THT Humanities Pre-Thesis Tutorial	6
21.THU Undergraduate Thesis in Humanities	12
Total Units	81-102

¹ See the minor in Ancient and Medieval Studies (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/ancient-medieval-studies>) for a list of available subjects and a description of the structure of the program.

Anthropology

Select two of the following:	24
21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures	
21A.01 How Culture Works	
21A.157 The Meaning of Life	
Select one of the following CI-Ms:	12
21A.155 Food, Culture, and Politics (CI-M)	
21A.802 Seminar in Ethnography and Fieldwork (CI-M)	

Select six elective subjects in consultation with the major advisor. ¹	69-72
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Total Units	105-108
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¹ See the Anthropology subject listing (<http://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/anthropology/#subjectstext>) for a list of available subjects. An honors thesis may be done at the invitation and approval of the faculty.

Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies

Select seven elective subjects that follow the general structure of the Minor ¹	63-84
21.THT Humanities Pre-Thesis Tutorial	6
21.THU Undergraduate Thesis in Humanities	12
Total Units	81-102

¹ See the minor in Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/asian-studies>) for a list of available subjects and a description of the structure of the program.

Comparative Media Studies

CMS.100 Introduction to Media Studies	12
CMS.701 Current Debates in Media	12
Select one of the following Practice and Production subjects:	12
CMS.335[[]] Short Attention Span Documentary	
CMS.362 Civic Media Collaborative Design Studio	
CMS.590[[]] Design and Development of Games for Learning	
CMS.609[[]] Computational and Experimental Writing Workshop	
CMS.633 Digital Humanities: Topics, Techniques, and Technologies	
CMS.634 Designing Interactions	
21W.752 Making Documentary: Audio, Video, and More	
Select five CMS electives ¹	45-60
Total Units	81-96

¹ A pre-thesis tutorial (CMS.THT) and thesis (CMS.THU), totaling 18 units of credit, may be substituted for one CMS elective.

Global Studies and Languages (in French, German, or Spanish)

Select nine elective subjects, which may include a pre-thesis tutorial (21G.THT) and thesis (21G.THU), subject to faculty approval	81-108
Total Units	81-108

History

Select five elective subjects ¹	54-60
Select one 21H seminar subject (excluding 21H.390) ²	9-12
21H.390 Theories and Methods in the Study of History	12
21H.THT History Pre-Thesis Tutorial	12
21H.THU History Thesis	12
Total Units	99-108

¹ The five 21H subjects must include one pre-modern subject (before 1700).

² Select from among 21H subjects for which the first digit after the decimal point is 3. See the History website (<http://history.mit.edu/subjects>) for additional information.

Latin American and Latino/a Studies

17.55[[]] Introduction to Latin American Studies	12
Select six elective subjects, including study in at least two disciplines and subjects in Spanish or Portuguese	54-72
21.THT Humanities Pre-Thesis Tutorial	6
21.THU Undergraduate Thesis in Humanities	12
Total Units	84-102

Literature

Of the eight literature subjects, no more than three may be introductory subjects, at least two must be intermediate, and at least two must be seminars. A minimum of three subjects must focus on pre-1900 texts.	96
Total Units	96

Music

21M.301 Harmony and Counterpoint I ¹	12
Select two terms of Performance subjects (6 units each)	12
Select one of the following:	12
21M.220 Medieval and Renaissance Music	
21M.235 Baroque and Classical Music	
21M.260 Music since 1900	
Select one of the following:	12
21M.291 Music of India	
21M.292 Musics in Bali	
21M.293 Musics of Africa	
21M.294 Popular Musics of the World	
21M.297[[]] Cultures of Popular Music in East Asia: Japan, Korea, China	
21M.299 Studies in Global Musics	

Restricted Electives

A coherent program of four subjects from the music curriculum chosen in consultation with faculty advisor(s)	48
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Total Units	96
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¹ Students who enter with additional training in music theory should take 21M.302 or an upper-level course as a substitute for 21M.301.

Russian and Eurasian Studies

Select seven elective subjects, two of which must satisfy the language requirement ¹	63-84
21.THT Humanities Pre-Thesis Tutorial	6
21.THU Undergraduate Thesis in Humanities	12
Total Units	81-102

¹ See the minor in Russian Studies (<http://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/russian-eurasian-studies>) for a list of available subjects and a description of the structure of the program.

Science, Technology, and Society (STS)

Select six elective subjects ¹	54-72
STS.004 Intersections: Science, Technology, and the World	12
STS.THT Undergraduate Thesis Tutorial	6
STS.THU Undergraduate Thesis	12
Total Units	84-102

¹ Must include at least one Tier I subject (<http://sts-program.mit.edu/academics/undergraduate/tier-i-subjects>) in addition to STS.004 and one Tier II subject (<http://sts-program.mit.edu/academics/undergraduate/tier-ii-subjects>).

Theater Arts

Select 12 units of the following:	12
21T.101 Introduction to Acting	
21T.110 Physical Improvisation: Bodies in Motion	
21T.120 Fundamentals of Theater Design	
21T.130 Performance Media	
21T.131 Script Analysis	
21T.150[[]] Playwriting Fundamentals	
Select eight elective subjects in consultation with the major advisor. ¹	78-96
Total Units	90-108

¹ See the Theater Arts subject listing (<http://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/theater-arts/#subjectstext>) for a list of available subjects. Qualified students may, with departmental approval, substitute a thesis (21T.THU) for one of these 12-unit electives.

Women's and Gender Studies

WGS.101	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	12
WGS.301[J]	Feminist Thought	12
Select five elective subjects		60
21.THT	Humanities Pre-Thesis Tutorial ¹	6
21.THU	Undergraduate Thesis in Humanities	12
Total Units		102

¹ With the permission of the director of the program, students may substitute two 12-unit subjects for 21.THT and 21.THU.

Writing

Select seven subjects in Writing ¹		84
21W.THT	Writing Pre-Thesis Tutorial	6
21W.THU	Writing Program Thesis	12
Total Units		102

¹ One of these subjects is normally at the introductory level; one may be selected from a related field.