

LITERATURE (COURSE 21L)

Literature Section (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/literature/#undergraduatetext>)

Bachelor of Science in Literature

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]; 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.

Required Subjects	Units
Select three of the following seminars	36
21L.701 Literary Methods (CI-M)	
21L.702 Studies in Fiction (CI-M)	
21L.703[J] Studies in Drama	
21L.704 Studies in Poetry (CI-M)	
21L.705 Major Authors (CI-M)	
21L.706 Studies in Film (CI-M)	
21L.707 Problems in Cultural Interpretation (CI-M)	
21L.709 Studies in Literary History (CI-M)	
21L.715 Media in Cultural Context (CI-M)	
21L.720 Chaucer's Canterbury Tales	

Restricted Electives

Select seven additional subjects to form a coherent program ^{1,2}	78-84
Units in Major	114-120
Unrestricted Electives ³	96-102
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 The major will consist of at least 10 subjects including no more than 3 introductory subjects, at least 3 intermediate subjects, and at least 3 seminars. A minimum of 3 subjects in the overall degree program must focus on pre-1900 texts.

² Subjects focusing on pre-1900 texts, introductory subjects, and intermediate subjects are listed below. A maximum of 3 subjects may be selected from among the introductory subjects.

³ 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

Subjects focusing on pre-1900 texts

21L.001	Foundations of Western Literature: Homer to Dante	12
21L.002	Foundations of Western Literature: From Shakespeare to the Present ¹	12
21L.003	Reading Fiction ¹	12
21L.004	Reading Poetry ¹	12
21L.005[J]	Introduction to Drama ¹	12
21L.006	American Literature ¹	12
21L.009	Shakespeare	12
21L.010[J]	Writing with Shakespeare	12
21L.012	Forms of Western Narrative ¹	12
21L.014[J]	Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Studies	12
21L.018	Introduction to English Literature	12
21L.019	Introduction to European and Latin American Fiction ¹	12
21L.021	Comedy ¹	12
21L.040[J]	Foundations of East Asian Literature and Culture: From Confucius to the Beats	12
21L.320	Big Books ¹	6
21L.325	Small Wonders ¹	6
21L.338	Reading in the Original ¹	6
21L.350	Science and Literature ¹	6

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21L.431	Shakespeare on Film and Media	12
21L.449	The Wilds of Literature ¹	12
21L.455	Ancient Authors	12
21L.456	The Bible: Old Testament	12
21L.457	The Bible: New Testament	12
21L.458	The Bible	12
21L.460	Arthurian Literature	12
21L.471	Major Novels ¹	12
21L.473		12
21L.475	Enlightenment and Modernity ¹	12
21L.490[J]	Introduction to the Classics of Russian Literature ¹	12
21L.494[J]	Classics of Chinese Literature in Translation	12
21L.501	The American Novel ¹	12
21L.512	American Authors ¹	12
21L.580	Translations ¹	12
21L.591	Literary London ¹	9
21L.601[J]	Old English and Beowulf	12
21L.609	Greek Readings	6
21L.610	Advanced Greek Readings	6
21L.613	Latin Readings	6
21L.614	Advanced Latin Readings	6
21L.620[J]	Introduction to French Literature ¹	12
21L.637[J]	Power and Culture: Utopias and Dystopias in Spain and Latin America ¹	12
21L.702	Studies in Fiction ¹	12
21L.703[J]	Studies in Drama ¹	12
21L.704	Studies in Poetry ¹	12
21L.705	Major Authors ¹	12
21L.707	Problems in Cultural Interpretation ¹	12
21L.709	Studies in Literary History ¹	12
21L.720	Chaucer's Canterbury Tales	12

¹ Topics class that may or may not be focused on pre-1900 texts. Please consult with an advisor in Literature.

Introductory Subjects

21L.000[J]	Writing About Literature	12
21L.001	Foundations of Western Literature: Homer to Dante	12
21L.002	Foundations of Western Literature: From Shakespeare to the Present	12
21L.003	Reading Fiction	12
21L.004	Reading Poetry	12
21L.005[J]	Introduction to Drama	12
21L.006	American Literature	12

21L.007	World Literatures	12
21L.008[J]	Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies	12
21L.009	Shakespeare	12
21L.010[J]	Writing with Shakespeare	12
21L.011	Introduction to Film Studies	12
21L.012	Forms of Western Narrative	12
21L.013[J]	The Supernatural in Music, Literature and Culture	12
21L.014[J]	Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Studies	12
21L.015	Children's Literature	12
21L.017	The Art of the Probable	12
21L.018	Introduction to English Literature	12
21L.019	Introduction to European and Latin American Fiction	12
21L.020[J]	Globalization: The Good, the Bad and the In-Between	12
21L.021	Comedy	12
21L.024[J]	Literature and Existentialism	12
21L.025	A History of the Book from Papyrus to Pixel	12
21L.040[J]	Foundations of East Asian Literature and Culture: From Confucius to the Beats	12

Intermediate Subjects

21L.400	Medical Narratives: Compelling Accounts from Antiquity to Grey's Anatomy	12
21L.430	Popular Culture and Narrative	12
21L.431	Shakespeare on Film and Media	12
21L.432[J]	Understanding Television	12
21L.433	Film Styles and Genres	12
21L.434	Science Fiction and Fantasy	12
21L.435	Literature and Film	12
21L.449	The Wilds of Literature	12
21L.451	Literary Theory	12
21L.452[J]	Literature and Philosophy	12
21L.455	Ancient Authors	12
21L.456	The Bible: Old Testament	12
21L.457	The Bible: New Testament	12
21L.458	The Bible	12
21L.460	Arthurian Literature	12
21L.471	Major Novels	12
21L.473		12
21L.475	Enlightenment and Modernity	12

21L.480[J]	Identities and Intersections: Queer Literatures	12
21L.481[J]	HIV/AIDS in American Culture	12
21L.485	Modern Fiction	12
21L.486[J]	Modern Drama	12
21L.487	Modern Poetry	12
21L.488	Contemporary Literature	12
21L.489[J]	Interactive Narrative	12
21L.490[J]	Introduction to the Classics of Russian Literature	12
21L.491[J]	Gateway to Korean Literature and Culture	12
21L.494[J]	Classics of Chinese Literature in Translation	12
21L.500[J]	How We Got to Hamilton	12
21L.501	The American Novel	12
21L.504[J]	Race and Identity in American Literature	12
21L.512	American Authors	12
21L.522[J]	International Women's Voices	12
21L.580	Translations	12
21L.590[J]	The Spanish Incubator	9
21L.591	Literary London	9
21L.592[J]	Race, Place, and Modernity in the Americas	9
21L.601[J]	Old English and Beowulf	12
21L.607	Greek I	6
21L.608	Greek II	6
21L.609	Greek Readings	6
21L.610	Advanced Greek Readings	6
21L.611	Latin I	6
21L.612	Latin II	6
21L.613	Latin Readings	6
21L.614	Advanced Latin Readings	6
21L.620[J]	Introduction to French Literature	12
21L.621		12
21L.636[J]	Introduction to Contemporary Hispanic Literature and Film	12
21L.637[J]	Power and Culture: Utopias and Dystopias in Spain and Latin America	12
21L.638[J]	Literature and Social Conflict: Perspectives on Spain	12
21L.639[J]	Globalization and its Discontents: Spanish-speaking Nations	12