

**Guide to Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
General Studies Curricula, 1868-1927  
AC.0485**

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## Table of Contents

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Summary Information</u> .....                  | 3 |
| <u>Historical note</u> .....                      | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents of the Collection</u> ..... | 4 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> .....           | 4 |
| <u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....           | 5 |
| <u>Bibliography</u> .....                         | 5 |
| <u>Collection Inventory</u> .....                 | 6 |

## Summary Information

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository</b>       | Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections |
| <b>Creator</b>          | Massachusetts Institute of Technology   |
| <b>Title</b>            | Massachusetts Institute of Technology, general studies curricula                  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b> | 1868-1927   |
| <b>Extent</b>           | 1.3 cubic feet (4 manuscript boxes)   |
| <b>Location</b>         | Materials are stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use.                |
| <b>Language</b>         | English   |

### Citation

Massachusetts Institute of Technology General Studies Curricula, AC 485, box X. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

## Historical note

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The Department of General Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) did not officially exist until 1882. Courses in general studies were offered as early as 1865, when the MIT Catalog offered a curriculum option called the Course in Science and Literature. At that time, all regular MIT students were required to take “general studies” classes from the Course in Science and Literature, in addition to English, history, and modern languages. In 1882 the Course in Science and Literature became the Course in General Studies (designated as Course IX) and expanded its offerings in history, economics, language, and literature. The department was initially led by MIT president Francis A. Walker and later by faculty member Davis R. Dewey.

In 1904 Course IX was discontinued; however, in 1905 courses in general studies were reintroduced in the form of electives open primarily to students in their third and fourth years. In 1932 President Karl Compton set up a Division of Humanities with three departments: economics and social science, English and history, and modern languages, expanded to a School of Humanities and Social Studies in 1950.

Historical information about the Department of General Studies and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences can be found at: <http://shass.mit.edu/inside/history>.

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## Scope and Contents of the Collection

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The collection contains information about courses offered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) between 1868 and 1927 in general studies, humanities, and social science subject areas. The material is primarily syllabi and course notes. Also included are summer reading lists issued by the faculty of the Institute.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections

## Revision Description

2009, 2012

## Access note

The collection is open for research.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Access to collections in the Institute Archives and Special Collections is not authorization to publish. Separate written application for permission to publish must be made to the Institute Archives. Copyright of some items in this collection may be held by respective creators, not by the creating office.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Function(s)

- academic departments

### Subject(s)

- curricula
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology--History

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## Bibliography

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Caldwell, Robert G. "The Humanities at Technology," *Technology Review*, Volume 43, 1941. [MIT Libraries](#).

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## Collection Inventory

|  | <b>Box</b> |
|--|------------|
| English 1868-1869  | 1          |
| Analytical Table of Lindley's Natural Orders of the Vegetable Kingdom 1874 | 1          |
| A List of Books 1878   | 1          |
| Department of General Studies course booklets 887, 1888, 1896              | 1          |
| Political History Since 1815 1889  | 1          |
| Papers and Notes on Statistics 1891-1893                                   | 1          |
| Primer of English Literature 1892  | 1          |
| Commerce of England During the Middle Ages 1893                            | 1          |
| English History 1893   | 1          |
| English Literature 1893  | 1          |
| Framework of a Course in English Literature of the Eighteenth Century 1893 | 1          |
| History and Literature of the Renaissance and Reformation 1893             | 1          |
| References for Readings in Social History 1893                             | 1          |
| United States History 1893   | 1          |
| Political Economy, Third Year 1893   | 2          |
| Syllabus in Political Economy 1896-1897                                    | 2          |
| History of the Renaissance and Reformation 1897                            | 2          |
| Summer Reading Lists 1897, 1898, 1904                                      | 2          |
| Political Economy 1898   | 2          |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Financial History 1899                                    | 2 |
| Business Law 189?   | 2 |
| Business Law 1900   | 3 |
| Economics of Corporations 1900                            | 3 |
| Political Economy 1900                                    | 3 |
| Economics of Corporations 1901                            | 3 |
| Political Economy 1901                                    | 3 |
| English Readings for Second-Year Students 1902            | 3 |
| History of European Civilization and Art 1902             | 3 |
| English Readings for Second-Year Students 1903            | 3 |
| History of European Civilization and Art 1903             | 4 |
| Second-Year English Literature Essays 1903                | 4 |
| English Readings for the Use of Second-Year Students 1907 | 4 |
| Note Taking 1907  | 4 |
| First-Year English Readings 1909                          | 4 |
| English Readings for Second-Year Students 1910            | 4 |
| English Literature, 191?                                  | 4 |
| English Readings for Second-Year Students 1913            | 4 |
| English Readings 1916                                     | 4 |
| Introduction to Composition, First Year English 1919      | 4 |
| Readings for Second-Year English 1920                     | 4 |
| Notes and Outlines 1923                                   | 4 |

The Book of 1930: A Selection of the Writing of First-Year Students 1927

4