

THE GAUDINO OPTION: *What Students Should Know*

A quick overview

- This initiative attempts to encourage students to engage in courses of interest beyond their area of focus or “expertise”—dare yourself to enroll in challenging but intriguing courses that you would otherwise not take!
- You can declare a G-option at the beginning of the semester for courses taken at Williams, starting as early as the spring semester of your first year and as late as the fall semester of your senior year. You can sign up for at most *one* G-option course per semester, and at most *two* in your undergraduate career.
- You *cannot* invoke the G-option on a course used to satisfy divisional or other college requirements (EDI, Q, W).
- You *cannot* invoke the G-option for any course that fulfills major or concentration requirements *unless* it is the very first course you take in that major or concentration.
- You will have up to 30 days after grades are posted to elect to invoke the G-option for a course from the previous semester. If your course grade is above a certain floor and the instructor of the course approves, then the course grade will be changed to **G** on your transcript and the GPA will not be affected by the original grade. The course *will* count toward graduation, but the transcript will reflect that you declared the course to be an intellectual stretch.
- Any course can be taken with the G-option unless the course description in the College Bulletin explicitly states otherwise.

Declaring the G-option

- You can declare a regular course at Williams as one of your two G-options any time during the drop/add period of any semester for which you are eligible to declare one. You cannot un-declare the G-option after the end of drop/add!

Invoking the G-option

- You may ask the Registrar’s Office to invoke your option for a G-option course within 30 days after grades are posted. After 30 days you will keep the grade you earned in that class if you don’t notify the Registrar that you wish to invoke the G-option. To apply the option, your course grade has to be no lower than the lesser of: (a) your current GPA *minus* 0.67; or (b) the grade of B-. In addition, the registrar will ask the instructor of the course to assert that you were “intellectually present.” If either of these conditions is not met, then the grade you earned cannot be removed. “Intellectual presence” implies that you have attended and participated in all the class meetings and that you have done all the required work. Some instructors might have other requirements. You should feel free to meet with and interact with your instructor to get the most out of the experience.

This is a 5-year experiment that the faculty is offering to all Williams students. Use it or not as you wish; however, don’t abuse this invitation from the faculty to explore uncomfortable worlds that interest you. If this option is abused, then this initiative will go away. Enjoy it!