

MINOR IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES

The Minor in African and African Diaspora Studies is designed for students interested in the contributions, cultures, and experiences of the peoples of African descent on the African continent and across the Diaspora. The goal of the minor program is to emphasize the importance of Africa and people of African descent in world's cultural, economic, and social developments, and to provide a balance between language, humanistic, historical, and contemporary study. Building on MIT's strengths in understanding science and technology, the minor provides students the opportunity to study interactions of people of African descent with contemporary technology sectors such as digital media, artificial intelligence, aerospace, genetics, and climate mitigation efforts. The minor includes study of economic and political systems as they reflect the African continent and areas of the African diaspora, and the histories, languages, and literatures of Africans and peoples of African descent elsewhere.

All of Africa falls within the geographical scope of the minor. Students may concentrate on a particular region or on any of the broad groupings of African cultures, regions or language groups. Equally, students choosing to focus on the African diaspora may concentrate on African American studies or on any group of African-descended populations in the Americas or elsewhere — be it in the US, in the Caribbean, or anywhere else in the Americas and beyond. Students focusing on either principal area (Africa or the African diaspora) must also take at least one subject which deals with the other area or with interactions between them.

The minor consists of six subjects (at least three of which must be MIT subjects), arranged in four areas of study:

- Area I: Language
- Area II: Humanities and the Arts
- Area III: Social Sciences
- Area IV: Historical Studies

Subjects about Africa and the African diaspora, as well as subjects in indigenous African languages, are also available from Harvard University and Wellesley College through cross-registration. Students must receive permission from the minor advisor prior to registering for a class at another institution.

Five of the six subjects taken for the minor may be counted toward the eight-subject HASS Requirement. Of these five, at most one may count toward the distribution component of the HASS Requirement. Of the six subjects required for the minor, at least four cannot be counted toward a major or another minor.

Area I: Language¹

Select one of the following:

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21G.303 French III
& 21G.304 and French IV

21G.703 Spanish III
& 21G.704 and Spanish IV

21G.803 Portuguese III
& 21G.804 and Portuguese IV

Two subjects at any level in an indigenous African language, or other non-English official language of the region of study

Select four subjects from at least two of the following areas² 48

Area II: Humanities and the Arts

Select from among the following:

21G.026[J] Global Africa: Creative Cultures

21G.028[J] African Migrations

21L.007 World Literatures

21L.504[J] Race and Identity in American Literature

21M.030 Introduction to Musics of the World

21M.226 Jazz

21M.293 Music of Africa

21M.340 Jazz Harmony and Arranging

21M.341 Jazz Composition

21M.342 Composing for Jazz Orchestra

21M.460 MIT Senegalese Drum Ensemble

21W.742[J] Writing about Race

24.912[J] Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies

WGS.142[J] Narrative and Identity: Writing and Film by Contemporary Women of Color

Area III: Social Sciences

Select from among the following:

11.164[J] Human Rights at Home and Abroad

11.166 Law, Social Movements, and Public Policy: Comparative and International Experience

17.269 Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics

17.523 Ethnic Conflict in World Politics

17.571 Engineering Democratic Development in Africa

11.135 Violence, Human Rights, and Justice

21G.025[J] Africa and the Politics of Knowledge

24.908 Creole Languages and Caribbean Identities

WGS.225[J] The Science of Race, Sex, and Gender

WGS.228 Psychology of Sex and Gender

WGS.229	Race, Culture, and Gender in the US and Beyond: A Psychological Perspective
Area IV: Historical Studies	
<i>Select from among the following:</i>	
21H.165	A Survey of Modern African History
21H.229	The Black Radical Tradition in America
21H.319	Race, Crime, and Citizenship in American Law
21H.358[J]	Colonialism in South Asia and Africa: Race, Gender, Resistance
21H.385[J]	The Ghetto: From Venice to Harlem
24.912[J]	Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies
STS.048	African Americans in Science, Technology, and Medicine
STS.088	Africa for Engineers
WGS.220[J]	Women and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa

Total Units **72**

¹ *Students are expected to have two intermediate (Levels III and IV) subjects in French, Spanish, or Portuguese or two subjects at any level in an official language of the region of study or in an indigenous African language. In cases where the student is specializing in Anglophone Africa or an English-speaking region of the diaspora and does not undertake study of an indigenous language, or is a native speaker of the official language(s) of a country or region of emphasis, this component would be replaced by literature or other humanities subjects.*

² *For students who are not required to take Area I subjects (see footnote 1 above), all six subjects for the minor must be taken from Areas II, III, and IV, with at least one subject from each area.*

The subject list above is not exhaustive. Additional information can be obtained from the minor advisor, Professor Danielle Wood (drwood@media.mit.edu), Room E14-574N, 617-253-1631, or from the SHASS Dean's Office, Room 4-240, 617-253-3450.