

HUMANITIES

African and African Diaspora Studies

The African and African Diaspora Studies program is designed for students interested in the contributions, cultures, and experiences of peoples of African descent on the African continent and across the diaspora. The goal of the program is to emphasize the importance of Africa and people of African descent in the 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 program 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 change mitigation. It also 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 program's geographical scope; a student may concentrate on a particular region or on any of the broad groupings of African cultures, regions, or languages. Equally, a student choosing to focus on the African diaspora may concentrate on any group of African-descended populations in the Americas and beyond. Students focusing on either principal area (Africa or the African diaspora) must also take at least one subject that deals with the other area or with interactions between them.

As noted in the degree chart (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/humanities-course-21>), the program consists of at least eight subjects beyond the introductory subject (24.912[J] Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies), pre-thesis tutorial (21.THT), and thesis (21.THU). The eight subjects—at least five of which must be MIT subjects—should be arranged in four areas of study; students should select two subjects that contribute to language training, and six subjects that together draw from Areas II, III, and IV:

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

The list of subjects for the program will build on the list currently approved for the minor (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/minor-african-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 program advisor prior to registering for a class at another institution.

The list of restricted electives below is not exhaustive. Additional information can be obtained from the program 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.

Area I: Language¹

21G.303 & 21G.304	French III and French IV
21G.703 & 21G.704	Spanish III and Spanish IV
21G.803 & 21G.804	Portuguese III and Portuguese IV

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

Area II: Humanities and the Arts

21G.026[J]	Global Africa: Creative Cultures
21G.028[J]	African Migrations
21L.007	World Literatures
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
WGS.142[J]	Narrative and Identity: Writing and Film by Contemporary Women of Color

Area III: Social Sciences

11.135	Violence, Human Rights, and Justice
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
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

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

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 language. If a 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. Students not required to take Area I subjects must take all eight subjects for the program from Areas II, III, and IV, with at least one subject from each area.*