MINOR IN ASIAN AND ASIAN DIASPORA STUDIES

The Minor in Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies is designed for students interested in the language, history, politics, and culture of Asia and/or the Asian diasporas. In consultation with the minor advisor, students may focus their coursework on a subregion of Asia, on one of the Asian diasporas, or design their program to offer a comparative study across different regions and/or cultural groups. The goal of the minor program is to provide balanced coverage of language, humanistic and social science offerings on the region, and to expose students to comparative perspectives.

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 Asia and the Asian diaspora, as well as subjects in Asian 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: Language

Select from among the following:

- 21G.103 Chinese III (Regular)
- 21G.104 Chinese IV (Regular)
- 21G.105 Chinese V (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies
- 21G.106 Chinese VI (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies
- 21G.109 Chinese III (Streamlined)
- 21G.110 Chinese IV (Streamlined)
- 21G.113 Chinese V (Streamlined)
- 21G.120 Business Chinese
- 21G.503 Japanese III
- 21G.504 Japanese IV
- 21G.505 Japanese V
- 21G.506 Japanese VI
- 21G.903 Korean III (Regular)
- 21G.904 Korean IV (Regular)

Two intermediate-level subjects in another Asian language

Select four subjects from at least two of the following areas:

Area II: Humanities and the Arts

Select from among the following:

- 21G.011 Topics in Indian Popular Culture
- 21G.030 Introduction to East Asian Cultures: From Zen to K-Pop
- 21G.036 Advertising and Media: Comparative Perspectives
- 21G.038 China in the News: The Untold Stories
- 21G.039 Gender and Japanese Popular Culture
- 21G.040 A Passage to India: Introduction to Modern Indian Culture and Society
- 21G.044 Classics of Chinese Literature in Translation
- 21G.046 Modern Chinese Fiction and Cinema
- 21G.063 Anime: Transnational Media and Culture
- 21G.064 Introduction to Japanese Culture
- 21G.065 Japanese Literature and Cinema
- 21G.067 Digital Media in Japan and Korea
- 21G.094 Cinema in Japan and Korea
- 21G.111 Chinese Calligraphy
- 21G.199 Chinese Youths and Web Culture
- 21M.291 Music of India
- 21M.700 China on Stage
- 21M.706 Asian American Theater
- 21W.788 South Asian America: Transnational Media, Culture, and History
- WGS.226 Science, Gender and Social Inequality in the Developing World

Area III: Social Sciences

Select from among the following:

- 17.407 Chinese Foreign Policy
- 17.433 International Relations of East Asia
- 17.53 The Rise of Asia
- 17.537 Politics and Policy in Contemporary Japan
- 21A.140 Cultures of East Asia
- 21A.141 Images of Asian Women: Dragon Ladies and Lotus Blossoms

Area IV: Historical Studies

Select from among the following:
21G.043[J] Introduction to Asian American Studies: Historical and Contemporary Issues

21G.045[J] Global Chinese Food: A Historical Overview


21H.151 Pre-Modern China

21H.152 Modern China

21H.154 Inventing the Samurai

21H.155 Modern Japan: 1600 to Present

21H.157 Modern South Asia

21H.350 Business in China Since 1800

21H.351[J] Shanghai and China’s Modernization

21H.354 World War II in Asia

21H.357 South Asian Migrations

21H.358 Colonialism in South Asia and Africa: Race, Gender, Resistance

Total Units 69-72

1 The language requirement can be satisfied by taking two intermediate (Levels III and IV, or Very Fast Track equivalent) subjects in an Asian language. Students with proficiency at this level are encouraged to take two more advanced language subjects, such as 21G.105 Chinese V (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies and 21G.106 Chinese VI (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies or 216.505 Japanese V and 216.506 Japanese VI. Alternatively, they may take two more subjects from Areas II, III, and IV. In cases where the student is specializing in an Asian country where English is one of the official languages, in an English-speaking region of the diaspora, or is a native speaker of an Asian language, the Area I component would be replaced by other subjects in consultation with the minor advisor.

2 Other languages may be taken at Harvard, Wellesley, or other institutions during IAP or the summer, with permission from the minor advisor.

3 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.

4 216.591, 216.592, 216.593, 216.594, 216.596, and 216.597 are acceptable alternatives for 216.039[J], 216.064, 216.065[J], 216.094, 216.063, and 216.067, respectively. 216.138, 216.190, 216.192, 216.193, 216.194, and 216.195 are acceptable alternatives for 216.909, 216.036[J], 216.046, 216.030[J], 216.038, and 216.044[J], respectively. These 13-unit alternatives include a research project that is conducted in the language of study.

The subject list above is not exhaustive. Additional information can be obtained from the minor advisor, Professor Emma Teng (eteng@mit.edu), 14N-303, 617-253-4536, or from the SHASS academic administrator, Andrea Wirth (awirth@mit.edu), 4-240, 617-253-4441.