MINOR IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES

The Minor in African and African Diaspora Studies is designed for students interested in the cultures and experiences of the peoples of African descent on the continent and elsewhere. The goal of the minor program is to emphasize the importance of Africa and people of African descent in world cultural, economic, and social developments, and to provide a balance between language, humanistic, historical, and contemporary study. 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. A student may concentrate on a particular region or on any of the broad groupings of African cultures, such as Arabic-speaking, Anglophone, Francophone, or Lusophone Africa. Equally, a student choosing to focus on the African diaspora may concentrate on any group of African-descended populations in the Americas. 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: Language

Select one of the following:

- 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 intermediate-level subjects in an indigenous African language, or other official language of the region of study

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

Area II: Humanities and the Arts

Select from among the following:

- 21G.026[J] Global Africa: Creative Cultures
- 21L.007 World Literatures
- 21L.504[J] Race and Identity in American Literature
- 21M.030 Introduction to World Music
- 21M.226 Jazz
- 21M.293 Music of Africa
- 21M.460 MIT Senegalese Drum Ensemble
- 21W.742[J] Writing about Race
- WGS.142 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
- 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

Select from among the following:

- 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  Colonialism in South Asia and Africa: Race, Gender, Resistance

21H.385[J]  The Ghetto: From Venice to Harlem


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 either the official language of the region of study or in an indigenous African language. In cases where the student is specializing in Angophone 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 academic administrator, Andrea Wirth (awirth@mit.edu), 4-240, 617-253-4441.