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: Language

Select one of the following:

- 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 are available from Harvard University and Wellesley College through cross-registration.

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

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 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
- 21M.800 All the World’s a Stage: Socio-Political Perspectives in Global Performance
- 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

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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), Room 4-240, 617-253-4441.