MINOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

American Studies at MIT offers students the opportunity to organize subjects from various fields (e.g., history, anthropology, literature, political science, music, art, architecture, and urban planning) into personally constructed interdisciplinary programs as a way of gaining an integrated understanding of American society and culture. Students can focus on any of several areas of interest, such as American literature; folklore and popular culture; black history and culture; women’s studies; American history, politics, or law; the history of science and technology; and American art, architecture, or music. Thus, a program in American Studies is ideal for preparing students for further work not only in the various humanistic fields, but also in law, urban planning, management, architecture, engineering, medicine, teaching, and the media.

The program has three primary objectives:

- To understand the underlying system of beliefs that informs every aspect of American culture—its myths, institutions, politics and literature, its characteristic dreams and rituals.
- To understand the uses and limits of different methods and intellectual disciplines as tools for exploring the complexities of a culture.
- To understand the American present in relation to the American past.

The minor consists of six subjects (at least three of which must be MIT subjects), from at least two of the following three disciplinary areas:

- Area I: Humanities and the Arts
- Area II: Social Sciences; Science, Technology, and Society
- Area III: Historical Studies

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

Area I: Humanities and the Arts

- 21L.006 American Literature
- 21L.011 Introduction to Film Studies
- 21L.432 Understanding Television
- 21L.501 The American Novel
- 21L.504[J] Race and Identity in American Literature
- 21L.512 American Authors
- 21M.215 Music of the Americas
- 21M.226 Jazz
- 21M.283 Musicals
- 21M.284 Film Music

Area II: Social Sciences; Science, Technology, and Society

- 11.041 Introduction to Housing, Community, and Economic Development (not a HASS subject)
- 11.151[J] Youth Political Participation
- 14.41 Public Finance and Public Policy
- 17.20 Introduction to the American Political Process
- 17.251 Congress and the American Political System I
- 17.261 Congress and the American Political System II
- 17.263 Electoral Politics, Public Opinion, and Democracy
- 17.265 Public Opinion and American Democracy
- 17.269 Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
- 17.271 Mass Incarceration in the United States
- 17.317 US Social Policy
- 17.40 American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future
- 17.46 US National Security Policy
- 17.483 US Military Power
- 21A.120 American Dream: Exploring Class in the US
- 21A.131[J] Latinx in the Age of Empire
- STS.001 Technology in American History
- STS.021[J] Science Activism: Gender, Race, and Power

Area III: Historical Studies

- 21M.295 American Popular Music
- 21M.296 Studies in Jazz and Popular Music
- 21M.706 Asian American Theater
- 21M.713 History of American and European Scenography
- 21M.714 Contemporary American Theater
- 21W.015 Writing and Rhetoric: Writing about Sports
- 21W.221[J] Communicating in American Culture (ELS)
- 21W.742[J] Writing about Race
- 21W.788[J] South Asian America: Transnational Media, Culture, and History
- CMS.313 Silent Film
### MINOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

- **STS.026** History of Manufacturing in America
- **STS.027** The Civil War and the Emergence of Modern America: 1861-1890
- **STS.036** Science in American Life: 1920-2020
- **STS.048** African Americans in Science, Technology, and Medicine
- **STS.049** The Long War Against Cancer
- **STS.050** The History of MIT
- **WGS.224** Race, Gender and Social Inequality: Reproductive Health Care in the United States
- **WGS.225** The Science of Race, Sex, and Gender

### Area III: Historical Studies

- **11.013** American Urban History
- **11.014** History of the Built Environment in the US
- **17.28** The War at Home: American Politics and Society in Wartime
- **21G.043** Introduction to Asian American Studies: Historical and Contemporary Issues
- **21H.101** American History to 1865
- **21H.102** American History since 1865
- **21H.187** US Environmental Governance: from National Parks to the Green New Deal
- **21H.201** The American Revolution
- **21H.203** The History of American Presidential Elections
- **21H.211** The United States in the Nuclear Age
- **21H.214** War and American Society
- **21H.220** Metropolis: A Comparative History of New York City
- **21H.226** Riots, Strikes, and Conspiracies in American History
- **21H.227** History of the US Supreme Court
- **21H.228** American Classics
- **21H.229** The Black Radical Tradition in America
- **21H.281** MIT and Slavery: Research
- **21H.282** MIT and Slavery: Publication
- **21H.283** The Indigenous History of MIT
- **21H.315** American Consumer Culture
- **21H.319** Race, Crime, and Citizenship in American Law
- **21H.320** Gender and the Law in US History
- **21H.321** Downtown
- **21H.322** Christianity in America

**21H.388** Global Commodities, American Dreams
- **STS.027** The Civil War and the Emergence of Modern America: 1861-1890
- **WGS.110** Sexual and Gender Identities in the Modern United States

#### Total Units: 72

1 Counts as Area II or III, but not both.

The subject list above is not exhaustive. Additional information can be obtained from the American Studies advisor, Professor Christopher Capozzola (capozzol@mit.edu), E51-284, 617-452-4960, or from the SHASS Dean's Office, 4-240, 617-253-3450.