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 French III
- 21G.703 Spanish III
- 21G.803 Portuguese III
- 24.912 Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies
- 21G.304 and French IV
- 21G.704 and Spanish IV
- 21G.804 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**

Select from among the following:

- 21G.026 Global Africa: Creative Cultures
- 21G.028 African Migrations
- 21L.007 World Literatures
- 21L.504 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 Writing about Race
- 24.912 Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies
- WGS.142 Narrative and Identity: Writing and Film by Contemporary Women of Color

**Area III: Social Sciences**

Select from among the following:

- 11.164 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
- 11.135 Violence, Human Rights, and Justice
- 21G.025 Africa and the Politics of Knowledge
- 24.908 Creole Languages and Caribbean Identities
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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

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 African language. In cases where the 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.

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 Dean's Office, Room 4-240, 617-253-3450.