

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: Language¹

Select one of the following:

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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

Select four subjects from at least two of the following areas² **48**

Area II: Humanities and the Arts

Select from among the following:

21G.026[J]	Global Africa: Creative Cultures
21G.028[J]	African Migrations
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
24.912[J]	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[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
11.135[J]	Violence, Human Rights, and Justice
21G.025[J]	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

24.912[J] Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies

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 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.

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