American Studies 01:050:301:03
Africana Studies 01:014:301:01
Hip Hop Culture and History
Mon, Wed 3:55-5:15
RAB 208

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor Nicole Fleetwood</th>
<th>Phone: 732-932-9962</th>
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Course Description
Since its emergence in the 1970s as a localized community formation in New York, hip hop has developed into a billion-dollar, transnational industry with a myriad of cultural legacies and commercial products. This course examines the historical, social, political and aesthetic roots of hip hop culture and music. We will look at its beginnings in urban black and Latino youth cultures, its aesthetic contributions to popular music and cultural expression, the vexed representations of women in hip hop, and its place in a larger global commercial exchange. In addition to analyzing hip hop music, the course will look at advertising, fashion, cinema, music video, and popular literature.

Required Reading
Electronic Reserves [ER]
Online sources and handouts

Assignments and Grading
Participation/ In-class assignments: 15%
Quizzes (3 in total): 15%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Analytical Paper (3-5 pages): 20%
Final Research Paper (5-7 pages): 30%

Requirements
Participation/In-class Activities: 15%
Attendance and participation are required throughout the semester. More than three unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade. Also, a lack of participation in class discussions and activities will weigh heavily on your final grade.

As a component of your participation grade, each student will work in small groups to help facilitate discussion during one class. Students will sign up for discussion moderation duties at
the beginning of the semester. Students will be expected to have prepared, typed questions to be turned in to me.

**Quizzes (3 in total): 15%**
Students will be given quizzes throughout the course. You will not be able to make up quizzes, unless you have a documented emergency or serious illness. Quizzes will cover course readings as well as lectures. Questions will consist of analyzing visual images using course material, providing definitions of key concepts, and constructing short essay responses.

**Analytical Paper (3-5 pages): 20%**
Students are required to write an analytical paper that critically engages with issues raised in the course. Paper should apply concepts and theories of the course to a specific component of the hip hop industry culture. Paper must demonstrate a depth and range that shows sufficient engagement with course materials. More details will be provided closer to due date.

**Midterm Exam: 20%**
The midterm exam will cover material through the first half of the course. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short response questions, and an essay component.

**Final Research Paper (5-7 pages): 30%**
Students will write an original research paper dealing with an issue related to the course; topic must be approved by instructor. As components of this assignment, students will turn in a short topic proposal, a thesis statement and a preliminary bibliography (see course schedule for dates).

**Course Policies**
All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day late. All papers must be double-spaced, typeset with Times or Times New Roman 12pt font, and have page numbers and one-inch margins. Format of papers should adhere to the Modern Language Association Style Manual.

*Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes copying classmates’ answers and improper citation of any text in the course or otherwise. Ignorance of university policy is not an excuse.*

**Course Schedule**
9/6: Introduction/ Course Overview

**SECTION I: EARLY FORMATIONS**
9/11: Forman. Introduction, pp. 1-7 [TTJ]
Forman. “Hip Hop Ya Don’t Stop,” pp. 9-11 [TTJ]
Ford, Jr. “Jive Talking N.Y. DJs Rapping Away in Black Discos,” pp. 43-44 [TTJ]

Flores. “Puerto Rocks: Rap, Roots, and Amnesia,” pp. 69-85

**Screening:** Wild Style


**Clips:** Breakin’

**Quiz 1**

SECTION II: THROUGH THE LENS OF SUBCULTURE THEORY

Hebdige, Hebdige. “Subculture.” [ER]


SECTION III: THE RISE OF GANGSTA RAP

10/2: Kelley, Robin. “Kickin’ Reality, Kickin’ Ballistics” [ER]
Quinn, Eithne. *Nuthin’ but a “G” Thang*, Ch. 1

10/4: Quinn, Eithne. *Nuthin’ but a “G” Thang*, Ch. 4-5

10/9: Quinn, Eithne. *Nuthin’ but a “G” Thang*, Ch. 7-8

**Clips:** Colors

**Analytical Paper Due**

SECTION IV: GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN HIP HOP CULTURE


Rose. “Never Trust a Big Butt and a Smile,” pp. 291-305 [TTJ]

**Research Topic Due (one to two paragraphs)**

Watkins, Craig. “‘We Love Hip Hop, But Does Hip Hop Love Us?'” [ER]

SECTION V: POLITICS, RACE, AND RAP

Hall, Stuart. “What is this “Black” in Black Popular Culture?” [ER]

10/30: **IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

11/1: Watkins, Craig. “Fear of a White Planet” [ER]
George, Nelson. “Black Owned?” [ER]

SECTION VI: THE BUSINESS OF RAP
Simmons, Russell. *Life and Def, excerpt 1* [ER]

11/8: Smith, Christopher Holmes. “I Don’t Like to Dream about Getting Paid’: Representations of Social Mobility and the Emergence of the Hip-Hop Mogul” [ER]
Simmons, Russell. *Life and Def, excerpt 2* [ER]
Liles, Kevin. *Make it Happen, excerpt* [ER]

**Thesis and Bibliography Due**

SECTION VII: HIP HOP VISUAL CULTURE & FASHION

**Clips:** *Menace II Society*

Emerson, Rana A. “Where My Girls At? Negotiating Black Womanhood in Music Videos” [ER]

**Quiz 2**

Fleetwood, Nicole. “Hip-Hop Fashion.” [ER]

SECTION VIII: THE CONTEMPORARY RAP INDUSTRY
11/27: Kelley, Norman. *A Phat Death*

**Screening:** *The Industry*

11/29: Kelley, Norman. *A Phat Death*

12/4: Kelley, Norman. *A Phat Death*

SECTION IX: HIP HOP CULTURE, AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
Suggested: Maira, Sunaina. “Henna and Hip Hop” [ER]

**Quiz 3**


**Clips:** *La Haine*

12/13: WRAP UP
Final Research Paper Due in mailbox (RAB 024) by NOON on Monday, December 18!!!
[NO EXCEPTIONS]

Other Resources
 allhiphop.com
 Davey D’s Hip Hop Daily News: www.daveyd.com
 The Original Hip-Hop Lyrics Archive: http://www.ohhla.com/
 The Hip-Hop Archive: http://hiphoparchive.org/
 National Hip-Hop Political Convention: www.hiphopconvention.org