

University of Texas at Tyler
HIST 5397/4397 Hybrid
The History and Politics of Hip Hop
Fall 2016

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Office Hours: 12:20-2; 3:30-4:30
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Times: Thurs 2-3:20; Tues online
Sec# 060
Class Location: Business Building
Room: 258

Introduction & Objectives

Welcome to this new course on the History and Politics of Hip Hop!! This class explores the foundation and formation of hip hop in America and the spread worldwide. An objective of the course is to study how hip hop has been used to contest and debate key political, economic, social, and cultural developments in America and in the world. The class is divided into three parts. The first part explores hip hop historiography, historical origins, challenges, and debates. The second part examines the politics of hip hop as a space to contest injustice through hip hop culture and expression. The last part of the class consider the hip hop transformations and spread beyond the United States revealing even more about the influence and appeal of hip hop in the diaspora/worldwide. Throughout the class, we will see how hip hop musical beats and lyrics provide alternative interpretations to existing historical and political narratives. Hip hop analysis provides a different way to explore complexities and contradictions of American and World history by emphasizing the perspectives of the youth and other often marginalized communities along with their creative and often provocative varied forms of expression.



Mature Subject Content: In order to fully study the impacts and evolution of hip hop culture it is necessary to also review some material that contains mature subject matter. The focus of the course will not be on such content but when such content is used it will be used for the purposes of intellectual discourse.

The class is designed offer skills to generally analyze and think about hip hop as it relates to history and political moments. Students will learn the skills to interpret artist narratives, rap lyrics, process varied forms of hip hop expression, and question hip hop historiography and knowledge as it relates to social and political change worldwide.

By the end of the class, students will:

- Acquire a conceptual framework for the study of hip hop in a global context, including theoretical constructs, and historiographical practices
- Trace the movement and development of hip hop and hip hop culture worldwide
- Obtain the skills to be able to think, process, and communicate on hip hop history, historical themes, challenges, and opportunities.
- Read and analyze narratives of social change including secondary/primary source documents, lyrics, music, dance, spoken word, videos, dance styles, films, fashion, graffiti art and other artistic expressions of political messaging.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify key hip hop dynamics including events, artists, groups, people, and other entities that have shaped the hip hop development and discourse.
- Trace transformations of hip hop from the beginning to the present state while analyzing how the changes have engaged in the understanding of history and political matters.
- Examine the effects of hip hop expansion and globalization
- Examine the effects of youth culture on American and world politics, economics, and society.
- Assess the impact of hip hop culture on contemporary issues
- Evaluate the impact of race, gender and class in a comparative and global perspective.

Readings (the following books are required and needed at the beginning of the class)

1. Murray Forman and Mark Anthony Neal. *That's the Joint: The Hip-Hop Studies Reader*. ISBN: 13-978-415-87326-0, published 2012
2. Tricia Rose. *The Hip Hop Wars*. ISBN: 978-0-465-00897-1, published 2008
3. Eric Charry. *Hip Hop Africa: New African Music in a Globalizing World*. ISBN: 878-0-253-00307-2, 2012
4. Additional readings, handouts, films, songs, videos, and other class material will be on reserve at the library circulation desk or posted online under blackboard.

Contact/ Communication

Outside of the classroom, all communications should be emailed to me or office visits/appointments. In addition, you will need to check blackboard and email and on a regular basis for weekly announcements and changes.

Technology

This course uses Blackboard. Therefore, make sure you have had an opportunity to get familiar with Blackboard before the beginning of the class. If you have any problems using Blackboard, contact the technical support **immediately** to get help. Also take advantage of the online resources available to you as a supplement to your textbook.

Netiquette

There are no real "rules" for having good manners on the internet, but there are some general guidelines. Be respectful of others. Never use an academic or professional forum to insult others or to make broad or sweeping generalizations about a particular group.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will result in a grade of "F" for this class. I will enforce this policy for all examinations and assignments. For definitions of "cheating," "plagiarism," and "collusion," see the *Catalog*. Failure to properly cite an author you have quoted or paraphrased will result in a grade of "F." You **MUST** use your own words.

Course Requirements & Evaluations

All assignments are due on or before the due date. In the event of emergency situations, email me before due date in order to make alternative arrangements. It is your responsibility to secure information from any missed class. No late assignments if you think you may have a conflict complete the assignment early. Please not **I do not reset online assignments, watch due dates!** If you experience technical issues with blackboard, contact technical support right away to get assistance. Graduate students will be evaluated based on deeper analysis and command of the material. Specific paper length requirements for graduate students (although minor) will be communicated in class.

What is Hip Hop? = 15%- Write a 3 page paper and presentation on what is hip hop based on existing literature, class material, and other sources. Show a command of some different interpretations, debates, and trends on hip hop, paying special attention to hip hop associated with social change. Assignment details will be announced in class.

Hip Hop for Social Change in the U.S. Assignment = 20% - Write a 5 page research paper on an hip hop artist and or group analyzing how they have shaped an alternative narrative of the American experience based on different historical moments. Students will also have an opportunity to creatively present their research findings. Details announced in class.

Hip Hop in a Global World Assignment = 20% - Write a 5 page short research paper on a hip hop artist or group outside of America. Provide a brief overview to the political and social state of the country as it relates to the contestation of the selected artist(s). Analyze how artists and fans in that society use hip hop music to contest social and political injustices. Students will also present research material. Details will be announced in class.

Chapter Presentations = 15% - Each student will have an opportunity to actively participate in class by leading the class discussion of the readings (creating notes and slide presentations) on the key concepts, ideas, themes and questions from reading and associated class material for the week. Details announced in class.

Exam Assignment = 20% - Assignment details will be announced in class

Panel Discussion = 10% - The class ends in a panel discussion on the state of hip hop for social change in America and worldwide. Important questions will be posed to students for discussion and debate. Details announced in class.

Total = 100%

GRADE SCALE: It is your responsibility to keep up with your class average. Keep your own calculations. Note that I will enter zeros at the end of the course for assignments missed. Please learn how to calculate your average. Please email me if you notice your grades are too low or high there may be an issue in the system. You are responsible for withdrawing from the class.

A = 90-100

B = 89-80

C = 79-70

D = 69-60

F = 59 & BELOW

Class Schedule and Readings

Readings should be completed prior to each class

(Please note: **Items are Subject to Change**)

Check online class and email often for announcements and changes!!!!

Key Topics for the Week	Lectures and Events	Readings	Assignments Due on by 6 p.m.
August 29	Introduction to Class/Syllabus Review What is Hip Hop? What is the relationship between hip hop and social change? How does hip hop explicate the complexity of our contemporary world?	Syllabus Rose, <i>Black Noise</i> , p. 1-20.	
I. Hip Hop Historiography and History			
Sept 5	Defining Hip Hop and Hip Hop Historiography What is hip hop? What is conscious hip hop/rap? What does hip hop mean? Does hip hop mean different things? How is it utilized by different groups of people? What is the current state of hip hop and hip hop knowledge? Who is producing the knowledge on hip hop and why? Discuss research strategies on hip hop. Professor Presentations at the KESSA conference	Forman and Neal, p. 9-12; Jeffries, <i>The Meaning of Hip Hop</i> , p. 1-53;	
Sept 12	Hip Hop Challenges, Debates and Controversy What are the major challenges of hip hop? Who owns hip hop and why? How does the industry shape the hip hop message and discourse? What are the major debates? Who are the critics? Who are the supporters? Why?	Rose p. 1-30; p. 201-213; Rose, <i>The Hip Hop Wars</i> , 241-247.	What is hip hop? Essay Due Sept 15
Sept 19	The Rapper As A Modern Griot? The Historical Origins of Hip Hop What are the roots of hip hop? What is the relationship between hip hop and other black musical forms? How did hip hop evolve and why? Film: <i>Something From Nothing: The Art of Rap</i>	Chang, "Necropolis", p. 7-20; Charry, p. 79-91.	
II. The Politics of Hip Hop			

Sept 26	<p>Fighting the Power: The Politics of Rap</p> <p>Civil Rights vs. Hip Hop. Hip Hop from a Cultural Movement to Political Power. Hip Hop and community consciousness. Hip Hop in Fighting Poverty and injustice.</p>	Forman and Neal, p. 438-450; p. 503-526.	Hip Hop in The US topic Due Sept 29
Oct 3	<p>Hip Hop Authenticity and Identity</p> <p>Hip Hop Authenticity and Identity. The use of the "N" word and the complexity of hip hop from other minorities in America. Youth agency and the Hip Hop movement. Film: <i>Tupac Resurrection in His Own Words</i></p>	Jeffries, p. 163-188; Forman and Neal, p. 165-178; p. 200-223;	Submit paper outline
Oct 10	<p>Hip Hop, Gender and Sexual Politics</p> <p>Queer Women of Color and Hip Hop Masculinity. Violence, Sexism, and Homophobia. Black Female Identity in Rap Music. Hip Hop and expressions of the Body. Sexual Lyrics and agency.</p>	Forman and Neal, p. 348-369; 399-433 Jeffries, p. 151-163; Rose, p. 113-131; 149-185.	
Oct 17	<p>Hip Hop Culture, Expressions, and Art Spaces</p> <p>Is it Art? Understanding the politics of graffiti art; the history of hip hop dance and culture; Film: <i>Style Wars</i></p>	Forman and Neal, p. 13-39; 56-62	Hip Hop in the US Paper Due Oct 20
III. Hip Hop Diaspora and Social Change			
Oct 24	<p>Hip Hop in the Diaspora: Hip Hop Across Time, Space, and Place</p> <p>Hip Hop Representation of Race, Space and Place. Rap subculture to pop culture. Hip Hop as a Diasporic Space.</p>	Forman and Neal, p. 92-101; 117-133; 247-314.	Research Topic Due Oct 27
Oct 31	<p>Hip Hop for Social Change in Africa</p> <p>Hip Hop use for social change in Africa; Senegalese Hip Hop Artists Agents of Social and Political Change. Messages, Meaning, and Identity in Malawian Youth Culture; Identity and Hip Hop in Mali; Nigerian Hip Hop</p>	Charry, p. 1-25; 109-167; 283-315. Clarke and Koster, 27-63.	Submit paper outline
Nov 7	<p>The Flow of the Hip Hop Revolution in Kenya</p> <p>How has Hip Hop developed in Kenya? How does Hip Hop reshape Kenyan History? What has been the influence of Hip Hop in urban</p>	Charry, 171-186; Clark and Koster, p. 226-265.	

	centers like Nairobi? How are the youth using Hip Hop to contest politically and socially? Film: <i>Hip Hop Colony</i>		
Nov 14	Research Presentations on Hip Hop in the World		Research Papers and Presentation Due Nov 17
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Holiday		
Nov 28	Exam Professor Presentation at ASA Conference	Rose, p. 261-273	Exam Due Dec 1
Dec 5	Panel Discussion Film: <i>Straight Outta Compton</i>		Panel Discussion Due Dec 8
Dec 12	Final Exam Week		

Important University Statements

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a disability diagnosis such as a chronic disease, learning disorder, head injury or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with an Accessibility Case Manager. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR webpage (<http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/>) or the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation,

inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.