

BLS 380 Selected Topics: Historical Perspectives

Hip Hop Culture, Economics, and Politics

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Course Description

Rap music has evolved from an east coast-based, urban underground musical art form to become one of the most dominating musical styles within the upper echelons of mainstream music. The impact of rap music and hip-hop culture has progressed beyond music, influencing all forms of society; culturally, economically, and politically. This course will address how rap music and hip-hop culture has become integrated into everyday mainstream society and what future role hip-hop culture and rap music will play in the future. Additionally, this course will review and analyze the negative and positive influences of rap music and hip-hop culture in broad terms of race, class, and gender.

Student Learning Outcomes:

To gain a broad knowledge and understanding of rap music history, the hip-hop generation and its culture.

To understand the impact and influence of rap music and hip-hop culture on contemporary domestic and international societies and their established youth cultures.

To think critically about how rap music and hip-hop culture has directly affected the African American community within their own culture and outside within modern American society.

Blackboard and Electronic Requirements of the Course

This course will be offered entirely in an online format. You will access the course and its associated web pages through the Blackboard system (<http://blackboard.uncg.edu>). All students must activate their UNCG computer accounts in order to access the Blackboard system. Accounts can be activated and forgotten passwords reset at <http://accounts.uncg.edu>. If you need additional assistance, call 6-TECH (336-256-8324), or e-mail tlc@uncg.edu.

Course Content Advisory

As N.W.A. states, “Parental Discretion is advised...” This course features sources and materials that include liberal uses of profanity, extreme violence, sexually explicit images, and politically incorrect perspectives. Students should be fully prepared to expect presentations and discussions of controversial issues in Hip-Hop music such as racism, sexism, and homophobia. **If any individual finds such subjects or terminology objectionable, they should immediately withdraw from this course.**

Required Main Texts

Forman, Murray and Neal, Mark Anthony. *That’s The Joint: A Hip-Hop Studies Reader*

Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop: Wankstas, Wiggas, Wannabes, and the New Reality of Race in America. Bakari Kiwana

Course Structure and Topical Outline

This course is structured in 8 units with each unit sub-divided into 4 sections.

Unit One - The History of Rap Music and Hip-Hop Culture

Lesson 1 – “The Founders & The Foundations”

Lesson 2 – “The Early Years”

Lesson 3 – “From East to West”

Lesson 4 – “The Golden Age – The 1990s”

Unit Two – The Influence of Hip-Hop on American Culture

Lesson 1 – “From the Hood to the Suburbs”

Lesson 2 – “The Crossover and the Commercialization of Rap Music”

Lesson 3 – “Everything but the Burden”

Lesson 4 – “Hip-Hop and Education: Notorious Ebonics and Lil’ Kim 101”

Unit Three – Hip-Hop Economics 101

Lesson 1 – “A Major without a Major Deal”

Lesson 2 – “Hip-Hop Moguls”

Lesson 3 – “Big Pimpin’ & Bling-Blingin’”

Lesson 4 – “The New Motown: The Exploitation of Hip-Hop”

Unit Four – The Politics of the Hip-Hop Generation

Lesson 1 – The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Afro-Centrism and Black Nationalism in Hip-Hop

Lesson 2 – “The Generational Gap: Civil Rights versus Hip-Hop”

Lesson 3 - “Fight the Power or Fuck the Police”

Lesson 4 – “Vote or Die: Hip-Hop invades Mainstream Politics”

Unit Five – Women and Hip-Hop

- Lesson 1 – “The Female MC and The Girl DJ”
- Lesson 2 - “Soul Sistahs, and Bad-Ass Bitches”
- Lesson 3 - “Hip-Hop Feminism”
- Lesson 4 – “When Hip-Hop Hurts: Taking Back the Music”

Unit Six – The Bastardization and Globalization of Rap Music & Hip-Hop Culture

- Lesson 1 - “The White Rapper – A Question of Color and Credibility”
- Lesson 2 - “New Jack Swing to Neo-Soul”
- Lesson 3 – “Hip-Hop International”
- Lesson 4 – “Playa Haters & Studio Gangstas”

Unit Seven – Hip-Hop Backlash – Inside & Out

- Lesson 1 – “The Rise and Influence of Gangsta Rap
- Lesson 2 – “Criticism & Censorship: C. Delores Tucker, Cop Killer, & Uncle Luke”
- Lesson 3 – “There is a Darkside: Homophobia, Misogyny, and Prejudice”
- Lesson 4 – “Death & Destruction: Eazy E, Biggie, & Tupac

Unit Eight – The Future of Rap Music and Hip-Hop

- Lesson 1 – “Burn Hollywood, Burn – The New Blaxploitation”
- Lesson 2 – “The Children of Donald Goines & Iceberg Slim – The Return of Ghetto Literature”
- Lesson 3 – “Fear of the Black Hat – The Hip-Hop Athlete”
- Lesson 4 – “21st Century Hip-Hop - The Next Generation”