

Spring Quarter 2010 : UCSD
Alan Lechusza Aquallo, PhD
ETHN 128 x MUS 152 Hip Hop: The Politics of Culture
SECTION ID: 679419 and 683407
Monday 5:00 – 7:50pm
Room #: CENTR 115
Office Hours: Monday 3:30 – 4:45pm, other times by appointment
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Course Description:

Hip Hop has dramatically transformed the cultural landscape of the United States and has influences that stretch around the world. This course investigates Hip Hop as a cultural form, with a critical focus on race, popular culture, gender, and the inter-political dynamics of creative expression. We will explore the history and development of the Six Elements of Hip Hop, discuss controversies within identity including authenticity and analyze cultural shifts within the global structure and re-presentation of Hip Hop culture. This course will examine the technology, lyrics, dance and artwork of this genre noting its influences on film, music video and the media. The socio-political contexts of culture (de-)constructed through the creative agent of Hip Hop will be analyzed as a tool for self-expression and resistance.

Course Schedule:

Lectures begin – Monday March 29, 2010
Midterm – Monday May 3, 2010
Memorial Day Observance – May 31, 2010 (No class scheduled)
Final Lecture – Monday June 7, 2010
Final Exam – Friday June 11, 2010 7 – 10pm

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

In order to gain the most from this course, all requirements must be met and completed. Any missed assignment will result in a failing grade. This includes attendance and participation. Late work will not be accepted. You need not inform me if you will be absent from a lecture, however you are still responsible for all the information/work and discussion information offered during class time. All assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Again, no late work will be accepted. Grades will be calculated as such:

- 1) Attendance and active class participation **10%**
- 2) Midterm: Assigned date, Monday May 3, 2010 (6th week)
Midterm: DUE DATE, Friday May 7, 2010 (6th week) 20%
- 3) Research Paper Abstract: Due Monday May 10, 2010 (7th week) **10%**

- 4) Final: Assigned date: Monday June 7, 2010 (10th week)
Final Exam: DUE DATE Friday June 11, 2010 (11th/Finals week) **30%**
Final Research Paper DUE DATE: June 11, 2010 **30%**

Course Policy:

- Make sure to turn off all phones, pagers and sounding electronic devices at the start of class and they should remain silent throughout the duration of class.
- Text(s)/Course Reader should be brought to each class session.
- All readings must be completed before class.
- Make sure to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and/or any other materials selected for use.
- Proof read your work before turning in your assignments.
- All assignments must be submitted/turned-in by the person who authored the document.

Course Schedule:

There will be general discussion in class about the readings in which you are encouraged to participate. As stated previously, please be prepared with the readings before class meetings. Additionally, there may be times when it is necessary for the schedule to be altered due to unforeseen situations. Please be aware of these changes if any arise.

March 29: Introduction/Overview, Critical Concepts, Theory and Background History of Hip Hop.

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

March 29: The further Evolution of the Hip Hop; an Art form

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

April 5: Not *Why* Hip Hop Matters, but *How* Hip Hop Matters!

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

April 12: Protest, Social Consciousness and Pop Culture

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

April 19: The O.G.'s; Gangsta Hip Hop

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

April 26: Going Native! The Redvolution of Native American Hip Hop

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

Midterm Due: Friday May 7, 2010

May 3: Ladies First!; Hip Hop Divas

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

Paper Abstract Due: Monday May 10, 2010

May 10: Beyond Black, Brown and Beige; Asian Hip Hop

Selections from the course reader will be assigned

May 17: Marketing Hip Hop Culture
Selections from the course reader will be assigned

May 24: The Global Impact of Hip Hop
Selections from the course reader will be assigned

Monday May 31 - Memorial Day Observance, No Class Scheduled

Final Exam: Monday June 7, 2010 (10pm, PST)
Scheduled Final Exam: Friday June 11, 2010 (7 – 10pm)
Research Paper Due: Friday June 11, 2010 (10pm, PST)

Research Paper, Abstract and Examinations:

Students will complete one major research paper for this course. This paper will consist of the following: a minimum of 10 double-spaced pages (full written text), at least 5 scholarly references with four being from different sources, a minimum of 3 different media resources (recordings, personal interviews, film, etc.) included for the research document. All written work must be typed in 12 pt., Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. For proper paper format and citation guidelines, please refer to a current (2010) MLA stylebook. Paginate all work in the upper right corner.

The Research Abstract will include: a minimum of 2 double-spaced pages (full written text) detailing the methodology of research to be completed, a minimum of 3 scholarly sources that will be used for reference and research. No late work will be accepted.

The Midterm and Final exams will follow a short answer and essay question style. Submissions for the Midterm, Final Examination and Research Paper are to be done on-line through WebCT.

On the day of each Exam students will be able to access the exam through WebCT with the Due Dates for each exam strictly enforced. No late work will be accepted.

Academic Integrity (Cheating, Unethical Scholarship and Plagiarism):

Cheating, unethical scholarship and plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment and may further result in a substantial lowering of the student's overall grade in the course. Plagiarism includes copying or paraphrasing any work (such as information from the internet, your own written work from other courses, papers written by other students, and information from books, magazines, articles, etc.) without full attribution. Sources must be indicated with footnotes or other citation formats. Use quote marks around any text directly copied from another source. Please refer to a current (2010) MLA style handbook for further reference information.

UCSD Rule of Community and Code of Conduct:

This course is designed to promote intellectual engagement and discussion of sensitive and sometimes controversial topics and issues. Rude, disrespectful conduct or speech directed toward the Instructor or other students will not be tolerated. Varying viewpoints

are encouraged which may not always reach agreement. UCSD Principles of Community will guide our discussion, especially: “We affirm the right to freedom of expression at UCSD. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, confidentiality and respect.”

Course Reader:

Please review this information very carefully! A required Course Reader is available at Soft Reserves (UCSD). Please be sure to purchase a copy as soon as possible. Additional readings may arise throughout the quarter. These will be announced during lecture.

Students may find two other non-required texts useful for this course:

1. Rose, Tricia, Black noise: rap music and black culture in contemporary America. Wesleyan University Press: England, 1994.
2. Keyes, Cheryl L., Rap Music and Street Consciousness. University of Illinois Press: Urbana and Chicago, 2002.

Both suggested texts are available at Groundworks Bookstore (UCSD):
groundworksdcollective@yahoo.com