

BRAZILIAN HIP HOP

July 31, August 2, 7, 9 (1-3 pm)

Dr. Eliseo Jacob
Department of World Languages & Cultures
Howard University
eliseo.jacob@howard.edu

Using music, academic texts and video, this course introduces students to the political issues, history and style of Hip Hop in Brazil. By exploring the ways in which music and cultural productions frame ethnic identities and question social inequalities based on race in Brazil, students will have the opportunity to reflect on their personal experiences with race. Some topics of discussion will include subalternity, social justice, the legacy of slavery in Brazil, racial and class discrimination, the myth of Racial Democracy and questions surrounding citizenship in Brazil.

This course will introduce students to the historical, political and aesthetic foundations of hip hop in Brazil. We will explore the musical, corporeal, visual, spoken word, and literary manifestations of hip hop in Brazil during the last three decades. For each unit, we will devote time to examining music and videos accompanied by academic readings. The instructor will begin the course by giving students a brief overview of the history of hip hop in Brazil and seek to outline a working definition of what is hip hop. The first unit of the course, *Aesthetics & Rhythms*, will look at the poetics, sound and rhythm of Brazilian hip hop. The second unit, *Politics & Race*, will examine the social messages addressed in rap music as well as the social impact of hip hop culture in historically marginalized communities in Brazil, such as the *periferias* and the *favelas*. The final section, *Poetics and Prose*, will explore the literary aspects of hip hop culture, specifically rap artists as storytellers, the relationship between oral and written traditions and finally hip hop's connections to urban literary movements, such as *Literatura Periférica* and slam culture.