

# Hip-Hop

MUS 17 Syllabus, Spring 2024

## Course Information

**Time:** Monday 6:30 pm - 9:20 pm

**Location:** Peterson Hall, Room 108

**Device:** A mobile device with access to Canvas Quizzes is required during lectures. You can bring more than one device as back-up in case your main device ill-functions. It's advised to use devices that have their own data in case the Wifi doesn't work. It's the student's responsibility to prepare the electronic device and ensure it functions properly.

**Note-taking:** recommended during lectures. The notes can be handwritten or typed. No photo shooting of the slides is allowed in the lecture.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Students are supposed to raise their hands if any question arises or if they need any help. No talking, no food taking during the lecture. There are nearly 400 people in the lecture room, so the minimum requirement is that your behavior doesn't disturb other students in the class.

**Waitlist:** Waitlisted students are supposed to stay on top of the course materials, and attend lectures and sections as other students. We don't provide in-class quiz make-up for waitlisted reasons. Actually, due to the extra quiz questions, this rule doesn't apply as a penalty -- it only reduces your chance of missing quiz questions in the future, and it's also a reward to students who choose to keep pace with the course from the beginning.

**A typical lecture** will be divided into two parts with a 15-minute break around 8 pm:

- 6:30 - 7:50 pm: One review quiz question from last week's materials in the beginning. Make sure you arrive at the classroom before 6:35 to take the quiz on time. No make-up for late arrivals. Another one or two quiz questions will pop up during the lecture.
- 8:05 - 9:20 pm: Lecture on new materials. One or two quiz questions will be given during the lecture, and there will be a quiz question at the end of the lecture. Make sure you stay until the end to get all the quiz questions!

Every quiz question will be available for 10 minutes. Once you start the quiz, there will be a 3-minute window before it's submitted. No make-up for missed in-class quizzes. No points for wrong answers. For more details, please refer to the **Late Policy & Make-up Accommodations** and **Grade Breakdown** sections.

All quiz questions are multiple-choice. The difficulty of questions in quizzes and exams would be:

Lecture quiz questions < Midterm < Final exam = Make-up exam < Review quiz question

The scope of these questions is as follows:

- **Lecture quiz on new materials:** Immediately from the slides just covered. Usually straightforward and simple. As long as you pay attention and take notes, you should be able to do these questions.
- **Midterm:** Covers lecture materials from the first 4 weeks. Integrated questions that require memorizing and basic-level inference. A full understanding of lecture materials and reviewing lecture slides would be enough to answer the questions.
- **Final exam:** Covers lecture materials week 5-10 and 2 special readings. Only general concepts in the readings will be tested. Materials from the first 4 weeks won't be tested explicitly (they may appear as possible answers). Integrated questions that require memorizing and basic-level inference. A full understanding of lecture materials and reviewing lecture slides would be enough to answer the questions.
- **Make-up exam:** Similar to the final exam but will cover all lecture materials this quarter, as well as special readings. A combination of midterm and the final exam.
- **Review quiz questions:** One question every lecture. Cover required materials from the last week (lecture slides and required readings/videos/audio/songs). Much likely will be drawn from required materials that were not covered in the lecture. This is the only type of question that tests materials outside of lecture slides.

I will typically make 35 quiz questions in total (only 30 correct answers are required to get full points). I will make 32 questions for the midterm and the final exam so that you can miss two questions for free. If your total points exceed the full points, these extra points will be counted as extra credits and will be added to your final grades.

There are no "over-float" (extra) questions in the make-up exam. Students are not encouraged to apply for the make-up exam if they already reached full points for quizzes. However, if you lost points elsewhere and want to make up, you can always apply with your official leave documents. Please refer to the **Late Policy & Make-up Accommodations** for more details.

## INSTRUCTOR & TAs

Name	Email	Section Time	Section Location
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Jingwei Liu (Instructor)	jil121@ucsd.edu	Monday 6:30 pm - 9:20 pm (Lecture)	Peterson Hall, Room 108 (Lecture)
Aaron Mencher	amencher@ucsd.edu	A01 Mon 9:00a - 9:50a A02 Mon 10:00a - 10:50a	CPMC 136 CPMC 136
Mitch Carlstrom	mcarlstr@ucsd.edu	A03 Wed 10:00a - 10:50a A04 Wed 11:00a - 11:50a	CPMC 136 CPMC 367
Tim Gmeiner	tgmeiner@ucsd.edu	A05 Wed 11:00a - 11:50a A06 Wed 12:00p - 12:50p	CPMC 264 CPMC 264
Adam Zuckerman	adzuckerman@ucsd.edu	A07 Fri 9:00a - 9:50a A08 Fri 10:00a - 10:50a	CPMC 127 CPMC 127
Yongyun Zhang	yozy011@ucsd.edu	A09 Tue 11:00a - 11:50a A10 Tue 10:00a - 10:50a	WLH 2154 CPMC 145
J.E. Hernández	jhernandezlpez@ucsd.edu	A11 Mon 12:00p - 12:50p A12 Wed 12:00p - 12:50p	CPMC 127 CPMC 367
Brian Tice	btice@ucsd.edu	A13 Fri 9:00a - 9:50a A14 Fri 10:00a - 10:50a	CPMC 136 CPMC 136
Han Zhang	haz074@ucsd.edu	A15 Thu 9:00a - 9:50a A16 Thu 10:00a - 10:50a	CPMC 264 CPMC 264

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recognize the differences between Hip-Hop as a lived, grassroots, event-based, countercultural practice and Hip-Hop as a music and media-based industry, which is now mainstream culture.
- Examine the diverse musical landscape of Hip-Hop, delineating various subgenres like boom bap, gangsta, trap, bounce, crunk, drill, and others.
- Apply critical thinking to the social and cultural issues reflected by/discussed within Hip-Hop, including copyright law, censorship, race, gender, politics, etc.
- Analyze Hip-Hop song form, beats, and rap. Analyze the beat, musical backing with a knowledge of Hip-Hop music production, and analyze the rapper's flow with an understanding of rhythm, rhyme, and wordplay.
- Create your own Hip-Hop beat, rhyme, or DJ scratches. In the creative lab, students will experience the Hip-Hop crafts via a learning-by-doing mode under the guidance of the instructor and TA.
- Integrate Hip-Hop into your life or major study. Hip-Hop intersects with a myriad of disciplines such as technology, engineering, business, industry, language, literature, politics, gender/race studies, music, and dance. The final project, driven by individual interests, serves as a conduit linking course material to a broader social, cultural, and academic background of each student, allowing them to personalize their exploration.

## Course Format

### SECTION ENGAGEMENT

There are two parts to section engagement:

- **Weekly discussion assignment:** A weekly assignment will be given to all students in class. The details and requirements will be given with each assignment. For more details, please refer to **Grade Breakdown**. This assignment serves as the cornerstone for your weekly discussion section.
- **Section attendance and engagement:**
  - All students are required to attend the weekly section discussions they enrolled in via WebReg. No accommodation could be made for switching sections without re-enrolling in that section due to grading and administrative reasons. Your TA may offer more freedom for switching between their two sections.
  - 15 points in total. These 15 points can be divided freely by your TA during the quarter and assigned as they see fit. In general, these points are given based on your attendance and engagement in the section activities in the classroom.

- TAs have certain autonomy to arrange their section materials and activities. However, the topic and questions presented in the weekly discussion assignment should at least be addressed if it's not the center of discussions.

## MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMS

Besides in-class quizzes, there are two exams during the quarter.

**Midterm:** Week 5 in class. April 29 Monday 6:40 - 7:50 pm. Covers week 1-4.

**Final exam:** Week 10 in class. June 3 Monday 8:10 - 9:20 pm. Covers week 5-10.

For more details, please refer to **Grade Breakdown**. All exam questions are multiple-choice. All exams are closed-book, on Canvas, and in person. Please bring your fully charged device to the classroom and make sure it can work properly for 1.5 hours.

## FINAL PROJECT

We propose various topics for the final projects. The project leans towards research-based studies that reflect your tastes and interests. More details will be unveiled when the date gets closer. For the points breakdown, there will be two submissions:

- Project Proposal:
  - The project proposal is a communication channel to convey your project idea to your TA or the instructor. Once approved, you can start working on your final project.
  - There is no determined due date. May 28 is the deadline for you to submit, but we assume your project idea will be conceived during the process. Once you have determined your topic, you can submit the proposal and contact your TA to go over it. If needed, you are also welcome to contact the instructor to discuss your project and research directions.
  - The project proposal can be revised, rewritten, and resubmitted unlimited times before the final due date, May 28. The TAs are supposed to regrade your modified proposals after your communication and discussion with them. The purpose is to help you find a suitable topic to conduct your final project and succeed in this assignment.
- Final Project: Due Finals week Tuesday, June 11, 11:59 pm. Project ideas from each Module are published as Canvas Pages. The requirements for the final project will be detailed in the assignment.

## GRADE BREAKDOWN

Type	Points per Assignment	Percentage (total points)	Grading Criteria	Due date	Note
In-class Quizzes	0.5 points per question	15	By correctness	Immediately in class	Around 35 questions, points are calculated with the lowest grade dropped.
Midterm	0.5 points per question	15	By correctness	April 29 Monday 6:40 - 7:50 pm	32 multiple-choice questions. Hybrid listening and comprehension tests.
Final Exam	0.5 points per question	15	By correctness	June 3 Monday 8:10 - 9:20 pm	32 multiple-choice questions. Hybrid listening and comprehension tests.
Discussion Assignment	1.5	15	Rubric (graded by TA)	Before the discussion section	Flexible due date specified by TA (before the official due on Friday). Generally due before the section to facilitate section activities.
Section Engagement	Around 1.5 per section	15	By TA	/	Points break down by TA. TA autonomy
Final Project Proposal	5	5	By TA or instructor	May 28, 11:59 pm	Can be resubmitted and regraded multiple times before the due date based on communications with your TA or the instructor.
Final Project	20	20	Rubric (graded by TA)	June 11, 11:59 pm	Extra points are available if you are confident about your project and recommend it to the instructor. The extra points are given at the instructor's discretion

## LATE POLICY & MAKE-UP ACCOMMODATIONS

### Late policy:

- **Discussion assignment:** TAs can give partial or no points for late discussion assignments (submitted after TA specified date). All sections are supposed to cover the same assignment for that week, whether the section is before or after the lecture. The weekly assignment will be posted every Friday to prepare students for the next week's materials especially if they have early sections on Monday or Tuesday.
- **Project proposal:** Late submissions can be graded at TA's own discretion, whether to give full, partial, or no credits.
- **Final project:** 1 point off every half day of late -- 10% (2 points) off per day. Subject to TA's discretion on subtle changes.

**Make-up accommodations:** There is no immediate make-up for missing lectures (in-class quizzes), mid-term, or the final exam. Students need to submit a formal request for excused absence (official documents required), and if accepted by the instructor, a collective make-up exam will be provided during the final exam time assigned on WebReg: June 12, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Upon enrolling in this course, we default the consensus that the student's schedule is arranged to attend most of the lectures and the official final exam at least. Unless emergencies happen, no further accommodation could be provided due to personal reasons. Thanks for your understanding!

Note: Please send your accommodation document to both the instructor and TA if it has long-lasting effects (more than one week). Please contact your TA solely for section absences and late submissions; please contact the instructor for excused lecture and exam absences. It's not necessary to email the instructor to ask for a leave. All your absences will be evaluated at the end of the quarter based on the documents you submit, and sending requests to the instructor usually makes no difference. However, if you're to miss the midterm or final exam, it's better to inform the instructor to make sure your leave is granted.

## EXPLICIT CONTENT WARNING (READ BEFORE ENROLLMENT)

This course may contain considered vulgar, violent, obscene, and offensive materials in videos, sounds, languages, and texts. We consider it inevitable to study Hip-Hop as a cultural product that was born from oppression and desperation in the ghetto. It may cause discomfort to some people so please take caution before enrolling. In general, the following groups' discretion is advised:

- **Underage:** if you are under 18 years old, please consult your parents or advisor and reconsider your enrollment in this course.

- **Sensitive and traumatized:** according to your life experience, if you're super sensitive to violent, racial, obscene, misogynous, or masculine content, please take advice from your doctor/consultant before proceeding in this course.
- **Low tolerance:** if you have a low tolerance for materials reflecting violence, poverty, insult, obscenity, misogyny, homophobia, etc. for whatever reason, please reconsider your enrollment in this course.

## Course Schedule

### Module 1: Introduction to Hip-Hop

- Define what is Hip-Hop
- Specify the core elements of Hip-Hop
- Introduce the battle culture of Hip-Hop
- Song list: Diss tracks (East Coast vs. West Coast beef etc.)

### Module 2: Origin of Hip-Hop

- South Bronx in the 1970s
- Gang culture, gang wars, and gang truce
- The Hip-Hop party and DJs
- Song list: East Coast Classics

### Module 3: Jamaican Sound System

- Jamaican roots of Hip-Hop
- Sound system parties and DJ sets
- Riddim, dub, and toasting
- Song list: Black Nationalism & Afrocentric Ideas

### Module 4: Hip-Hop Instruments

- DJ technique and turntablism
- Drum machine and samplers
- Register and significance of sampling
- Song list: West Coast Classics

### Module 5: Black Oral Traditions

- The dozens, toasting, signifying
- Comedians, radio DJs, and hustlers



- Case study: 2 live crew
- Song list: The Southern Rap

**Module 6: The Art of Emcee**

- Flow deconstructed: rhythm and rhyme
- Lyrical tools and content forms
- Case study: N.Y. State of Mind
- Song list: Alternative/underground Hip-Hop

**Module 7: Hip-Hop Production**

- The business of Hip-Hop
- The sound evolution of Hip-Hop
- Subgenres of Hip-Hop: Trap, Bounce, Drill, Crunk, etc.
- Song list: "Hip-Hop" in the New Era