

# Lecture 1: Battle Culture of Hip-Hop

MUS 17: Hip-Hop

Instructor: Jingwei Liu

Spring 2024, UC San Diego

# Course Information

– Canvas Syllabus

# Group Discussion

- Introduce yourself and get to know your classmates...
- Why do you take this course?
- What does Hip-hop mean to you?
- Do you have some existing engagement with Hip-Hop? If so, how are you engaged with it and how do you understand it?
- What do you want to get from this course? What do you expect from the discussion sections?
- Plus whatever you want other people to know about you.....

# DEI Requirement

The [UC San Diego Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Requirement \(DEI\) Statement](#) reads as follows:

*A knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion is required of all candidates for a Bachelor's degree who begin their studies at UC San Diego in lower-division standing in Fall 2011 or thereafter, or in upper-division standing in Fall 2013 or thereafter.*

- What were the [circumstances and events](#) that took place at UC San Diego that caused this initiative to be put in place?
- Does studying about the history and culture of Hip Hop fulfill the goals of the DEI initiative?

# What is Hip-Hop?

There are two folds of Hip-Hop:

- *Hip-Hop as a lived, grassroots, event-based, countercultural practice*
- *Hip-Hop as a music and media based industry, which is now mainstream culture*

Maybe for many people, especially young generations, the second interpretation seems more relevant. However, in this course, we will focus on the history, culture and spirit of real Hip-Hop, honoring its black roots and the community it fostered and continues fostering – the living practice of Hip-Hop.

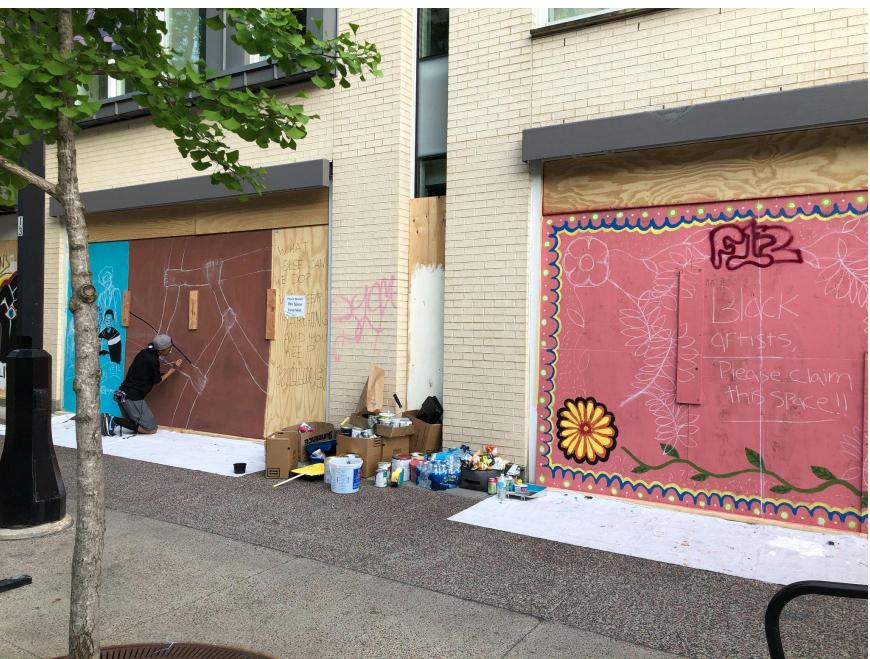
# What is Hip-Hop

- [KRS-One: An Introduction To Hip-Hop](#)
- We approach Hip-Hop not as an object to be bought and sold, but a subject to be properly understood and lived.
- Our strategy to preserve Hip-Hop is to become Hip-Hop and preserve ourselves.
- Hip-Hop is defined as “*the artistic response to oppression*”.

# Four Elements of Hip-Hop

- **DJing:** the cuttin', mixin' and scratchin' of recorded materials. Predecessor of producing/beat-making.
- **B-boying:** breaking, break dancing. Include B-girling later on. Evolved into various street dance styles including popping, locking, and Hip-Hop dance.
- **MCing:** toasting. Predecessor of rapping.
- **Graffiti:** graffiti writing, graffiti art.

All four elements have their own historical importance and are indispensable components of Hip-Hop culture.





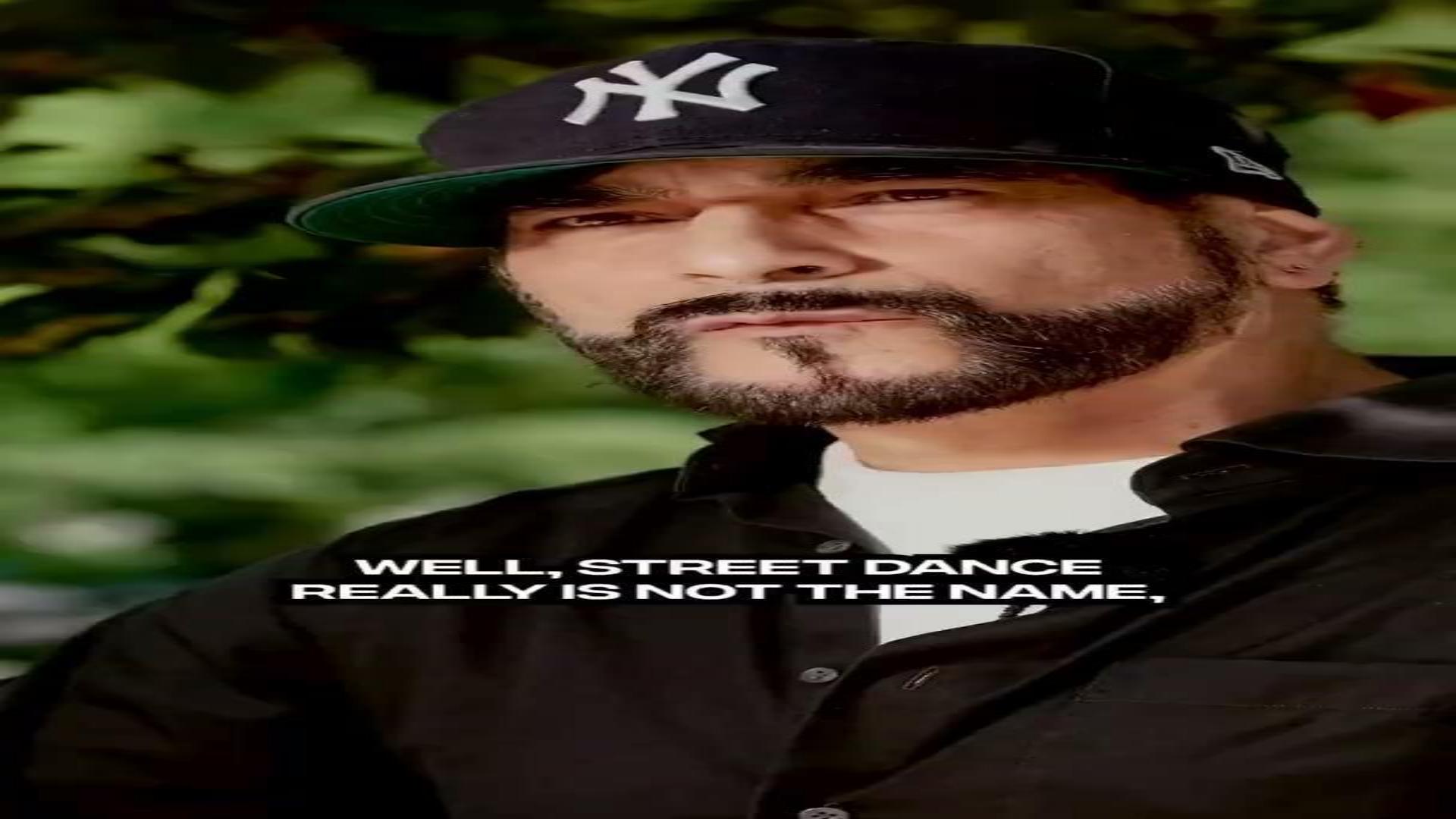
World of Dance Chicago 2018

The Hitterz Collective, Madison, WI 2019

Dance battle, El Cajon, CA 2021

Dance session, SDSU, CA 2023

- [Homegrown Volume II](#), UC San Diego, CA (May 2022) @mosaic.collabart
- [Hip-Hop in Chinatown](#), Chicago, IL (Aug. 2022) @hiphopinchinatown\_
- [Wild-7s 11th-Anniversary](#), Oceanside, CA (Dec. 2022) @wildnation\_7



**WELL, STREET DANCE  
REALLY IS NOT THE NAME,**

Everything  
Remains  
Raw



# Graffiti

- While graffiti “writers” weren’t explicitly part of the party scene, their styles developed in tandem and many overlapping individuals were involved
- Early graffiti involved simple “tagging” ([taki 183](#) was an infamous early tagger), but the “writing” quickly evolved beyond tagging to large-scale, highly-complex work, often sprayed on the side of NYC subway train cars.
- Graffiti artists such as Lee Quiñones, Rammelzee, and Futura crossed over to the “art” world before any rappers were popularly successful in music.
- They also profoundly influenced young NYC downtown gallery artists.

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JUL 21, 1971

## *'Taki 183' Spawns Pen Pals*

Taki is a Manhattan teenager who writes his name and his street number everywhere he goes. He says it is something he just has to do.

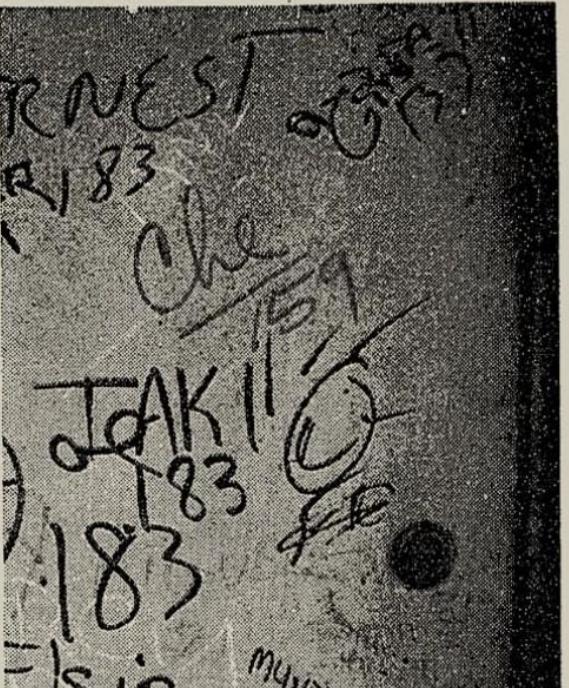
His TAKI 183 appears in subway stations and inside subway cars all over the city, on walls along Broadway, at Kennedy International Airport, in New Jersey, Connecticut, upstate New York and other places.

He has spawned hundreds of imitators, including Joe 136, BARBARA 62, EEL 159, YANK 135 and LEO 136.

To remove such words, plus the obscenities and other graffiti in subway stations, it cost 80,000 man-hours, or about \$300,000, in the last year, the Transit Authority estimates.

"I work, I pay taxes too and it doesn't harm anybody," Taki said in an interview, when told of the cost of removing the graffiti.

And he asked: "Why do they go after the little guy? Why not the campaign organizations that put stickers all over the subways at elec-





public art films

# Style Wars



**WALK  
STAFF**

## Poetry of America, New York State of Mind (12:28 - 12:50)

### Hip-Hop is built off of competition

- You don't come here to be the number two guy
- “*I'm a poet and I'm the best*” – Nas
- In hip hop culture, you have to feel like you're the best
- And you also have to prove that you're the best.

Jay-Z wrote, "I've read articles where people compare rap to other genres of music, like jazz or rock 'n roll. But it's really most like a sport. Boxing to be exact.

**The stamina, the one-man army, the combat, the ring, the stage..."**



LOGISTIX

VS

INDIA









Round 2

KINGOFTHEDOTCOM  
WORLDSTARHIPHOP.COM



# Hip-Hop Dance Events

- Summer dance forever -  
Hip-Hop forever
- Red Bull - Dance your  
style/ BC One
- Juste Debout
- World of Dance
- Freestyle session



# BATTLEBOT

TUESDAY  
**4 / 26**

**BEAT BATTLE**  
\$20 ENTRY / 45 SECONDS / HEAD TO HEAD  
JUMP DRIVE OR SMART PHONE OR LAPTOP  
TIE = SUDDEN DEATH DECIDED BY JUDGES  
**\$200+ PRIZES**

**DANCE BATTLE**  
\$10 ENTRY / 2 VS 2 OPEN STYLES  
PRELIM CYPHER / FINALS  
HOSTED BY ERANETIK & CROS1 / DJ MANE ONE  
**\$200 + PRIZES**

**MC BATTLE**  
\$10 ENTRY / HEAD TO HEAD / 30 SECONDS  
SAME BEAT PER ROUND / BEAT PROVIDED  
TIE = SUDDEN DEATH DECIDED BY JUDGES  
**\$100+ PRIZES**

**SCRATCH BATTLE**  
\$20 ENTRY / DJS BRING NEEDLES, SLIPMATS,  
RECORDS AND/OR LAPTOP JUDGING CRITERIA:  
SKILL SET, MUSICALITY, STYLE, SHOWMANSHIP,  
EXECUTION. WINNER DECIDED BY JUDGES & CROWD  
SUDDEN DEATH DECIDED BY CROWD

OPEN MIC / PORTABLE SCRATCH SESSION

**The Casbah** URBANNETWORK DIGITAL MQ ARMYR SURVIVAL GEAR Freestyle GOOD VIBES NO FIVE TRIBAL THE PRESH GARD

RELOOP BPM SUPREME NAMAMOTO BLOCKED Goodlife ODYSSEY

THE CASBAH | \$10 AT DOOR | 9PM | 21+ | 2501 KETTNER BLVD | SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

PROOF OF FULL VACCINATION OR NEGATIVE PCR TEST WITHIN 72 HOURS OF SHOW ARE REQUIRED  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR ALL PATRONS WHEN NOT ACTIVELY DRINKING.

# Eminem 8 Mile Rap Battle (check lyrics at [genius.com](https://genius.com))

- Pay attention to how the first rapper choose the aspects of insulting, how they formulate them and what's the response from the audience.
- Listen to the response from the second rapper. How they react to what the first rapper said and how they attack back/turn around. Pay attention to the audience response on these moments.
- Think about the punchlines. Pay attention not only to what they said but also to *how* they said it and *what time* they chose to say it. What are the techniques/lyrical tools they used to maximize the effect of their punchlines.



# 贝贝 vs 马思唯 (8 Miles in China)





Thank You!