

Rapping It Up: An Analysis of Hip Hop Music (MUSC248D) - Fall 2018

DAY, TIME, LOCATION:

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Clarice Performing Arts Center
Room 2164
(PAC 2164)

PREREQUISITES: None

CREDITS: 1

COURSE STAFF:

Professor: William C. Evans - wevans1@umd.edu

TF:

Jordan Weber - jwebs2@terpmail.umd.edu, 301-830-2899

Yannick Alexis - yalexis@terpmail.umd.edu, 301-256-4826

Tentative Office Hours:

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM in PAC 2164

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will discuss the history and analyze the evolution of Hip Hop and rap music from it's early stages in the Nineteen Eighties to the Present day. Students will interact in class discussions and gain an understanding for the different sounds, messages, and impacts of varying Hip Hop artists and styles. From this, students will then apply learning from in class discussion by exploring previously unheard music and articulating their opinions. Throughout the course students will reflect on the value of Hip Hop to society and how it affects culture. Students will also get the chance to interact with Local Hip-Hop artists as well as write and perform their own art as an extended learning opportunity to connect with the art form. Overall, students will learn and evaluate the intricacies of Hip Hop music and its importance to society.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the term, participants will be able to

- 1. Expand their knowledge and taste for hip-hop and music in general*
- 2. Be able to articulate/analyze hip-hop music*
- 3. Demonstrate significance of hip-hop to modern culture and black communities*

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be graded on participation/attendance, weekly pre-class work, a mid-term paper and a final reflection. Participation will be graded based on contributing two meaningful thoughts to discussion. Pre-class work will be the main way in which students explore new music on their own and will be submitted on ELMS weekly before class. Students will be required to listen to two new albums every week, then post a brief but thorough response on the ELMS discussion board reviewing the albums. The mid-term paper will be a 3 page minimum assignment that will allow students to analyze the impact of a particular city on the prevalence of hip hop today. The final assignment will be a 5 page minimum cumulative reflection on the discussions had throughout the course and an introspective dissection of the personal musical growth made over the course of the semester.

GRADING:

<i>Participation:</i>	<i>40%</i>
<i>Pre-Class Work:</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Mid-Term Paper:</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Final Paper:</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>100%</i>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1 (8/29): Introduction: Rap Origins

Week 2 (9/5): Then and Now: New York

Week 3 (9/12): Then and Now: Los Angeles

Week 4 (9/19): Then and Now: Chicago

Week 5 (9/26): Then and Now: Atlanta

*Week 6 (10/3): Then and Now: D.C. (**Midterm Paper Assigned**)*

Week 7 (10/10): Freestyle, Battles, and Beefs: How Competition Fuels Rap Unlike Any Other Music

Week 8 (10/17): Women In Hip Hop

*Week 9 (10/24): Politics in Hip Hop (**Midterm Paper Due & Final Paper Assigned**)*

Week 10 (10/31)): Old School Vs. New School: Has the Golden Age Ended?

Week 11 (11/7): Adapting to the Digital Age

*Week 12 (11/14): Hip Hop Across the Globe (**Final Paper Check In**)*

Week 13 (11/21): NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 (11/28): The Art of Creation Workshop (Possible Guest Speaker)

*Week 15 (12/5): Final Debate: GOAT Talks (**Final Paper Due**)*

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Students will participate in discussions and debates on various Hip Hop topics, as well collaborative in-class activities. Students will also engage in watching and analyzing music videos as a part of their role in the Hip Hop genre. In addition to this, there will be occasional workshops and guest speakers to engage students on a closer level to the music they are delving into. They will be working close with the instructors to ensure all learning objectives are being met.

READINGS AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

No textbooks are required, however we highly suggest acquiring a premium account to a music streaming service (preferably Apple Music) to allow for easy access to a variety of music.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

See the section titled "Attendance, Absences, or Missed Assignments" available at [Course Related Policies](#)

DISABILITY SUPPORT ACCOMMODATIONS:

See the section titled "Attendance, Absences, or Missed Assignments" available at [Course Related Policies](#).