

African American Studies Program, University of Florida**History of Hip Hop****AMH 3931/AFA 3930, Section 165F**

Spring 2016

Periods 7

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 1:55 – 2:45 pm

Location: NRN 0331

Professor: Ibram X. Kendi, Ph.D.
 Office: 226 Keene-Flint Hall
 Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or by appointment
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Course Description

This course examines the blossoming of Hip Hop from the concrete of New York City in the 1970s, and its spread over the last four decades throughout the nation and world not just as a musical genre, but as a cultural and political youth movement.

Required Books

Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop: History of the Hip Hop Generation*

Shea Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook: The Most Important Rap Song from Every Year Since 1979, Discussed, Debated, and Deconstructed*

Tricia Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars: What We Talk About When We Talk About Hip Hop and Why It Matters*

Academic Course Requirements

Reading Pop Quizzes (30 Percent). Students will be given six, five-question pop quizzes at the beginning of six class periods. There is no need to study. Reading the text carefully will suffice as studying. There are no make-ups, unless you have an approved excuse. Each quiz is worth 20 points for a total of 100 points. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Term Research Paper (30 Percent). Students are to choose a country on the first day of class and compose a general history of Hip Hop in that particular nation. Minimum: 10 pages.

Due: February 26.

Hip Hop Song (20 Percent). Students are to compose and deliver a rap song. Students can choose any available instrumental to rap over. The song must be a minimum of 3 and a half minutes and it must have a chorus. Any topic will suffice. Every student will present their song during the class cypher during week 15. Students will be graded on their lyrics, flow, and the response of their audience (their classmates).

Final Paper (20 Percent). Students are to select what they consider the most important rap song of 2015 and make the case why, just as Shea Serrano did in *The Rap Yearbook*.

Minimum: 5 pages. Due: April 28 (email to professor, ikendi@ufl.edu, by 12:00 p.m.)

Note: All assignments must be typed in 12-point in a word processing font.

Extra Credit

During the course of the semester, there may be events on campus that have some relationship to this course. If the event is approved, the instructor give extra credit for attending and writing a one-page reflection paper about your experience. A half of a point will be added to your overall grade/average for attending and writing about an event.

Grading Scale (Numerical Grade Equivalent)

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| | 100-94 = A | 93-90 = A- |
| 89-87 = B+ | 86-84 = B | 83-80 = B- |
| 79-77 = C+ | 76-74 = C | 73-70 = C- |
| 69-67 = D+ | 66-64 = D | 63-60 = D- |
| | 59-0 = E | |

Grading Policy

The grading for this course will be based on the student's knowledge of the material, and how they articulate this knowledge through class discussion and assignments. **Students cannot turn in any assignments late.**

Course evaluation process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Class attendance policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Student Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

UF's Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week # 1 ~

Wednesday, January 6

Course Overview

Friday, January 8

Listen to Song: “Rapper’s Delight” by The Sugarhill Gang

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 10-15

Week #2 ~

Monday, January 11

Required Reading: Chang, *Can’t Stop Won’t Stop*, 7-39.

Wednesday, January 13

Listen to Song: “The Breaks” by Kurtis Blow

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 16-21

Friday, January 15

Debate Topic: Hip Hop Causes Violence

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 33-60

Week #3 ~

Monday, January 18

Class Cancelled

Wednesday, January 20

Listen to Song: “The Message” by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 28-33

Friday, January 22

Debate Topic: Hip Hop Reflects Black Dysfunctional Ghetto Culture

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 61-74

Week #4 ~

Monday, January 25

Required Reading: Chang, *Can’t Stop Won’t Stop*, 41-85.

Wednesday, January 27

Listen to Song: “Sucker M.C.’s” by Run-DMC

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 34-39

Friday, January 29

Debate Topic: Hip Hop Hurts Black People

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 75-94

Week #5 ~

Monday, February 1

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 89-125.

Wednesday, February 3

Listen to Song: "Paid in Full" by Eric B. and Rakim

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 58-63

Friday, February 5

Debate Topic: Hip Hop Is Destroying America's Values

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 95-112

Week #6 –

Monday, February 8

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 127-165.

Wednesday, February 10

Listen to Song: "Straight Outta Compton" by N.W.A.

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 64-69

Friday, February 12

Debate Topic: Hip Hop Demeans Women

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 113-131

Week #7 –

Monday, February 15

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 167-211.

Wednesday, February 17

Listen to Song: "Fight the Power" by Public Enemy

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 70-75

Friday, February 19

Debate Topic: Just Keeping It Real

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 133-148

Week #8 –

Monday, February 22

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 215-261.

Wednesday, February 24

Listen to Song: "Bonita Applebum" by A Tribe Called Quest

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 76-81

Friday, February 26

Debate Topic: Hip Hop Is Not Responsible for Sexism

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 149-166

Week #9 ~ No Classes, Spring Break

Week #10

Monday, March 7

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 263-329.

Wednesday, March 9

Listen to Song: C.R.E.A.M. by Wu-Tang Clan

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 94-99

Friday, March 11

Debate Topic: "There are Bitches and Hoes"

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 167-186

Week #11

Monday, March 14

Required Reading:

Wednesday, March 16

Listen to Song: "Juicy" by The Notorious B.I.G.

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 100-105

Friday, March 18

Debate Topic: We're Not Role Models

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 187-200

Week #12 ~

Monday, March 21

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 331-379.

Wednesday, March 23

Listen to Song: "Dear Mama" by Tupac

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 106-111

Friday, March 25

Debate Topic: Nobody Talks About the Positive in Hip Hop

Required Reading: Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars*, 201-213

Week #13 ~

Monday, March 28

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 381-435.

Wednesday, March 30

Listen to Song: "My Name Is" by Eminem

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 130-135

Friday, April 1

Listen to Songs: "Takeover" by Jay-Z & "Ether" by Nas

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 10-15

Week #14 ~

Monday, April 4

Required Reading: Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, 437-465.

Wednesday, April 6

Listen to Song: "Still Tippin'" by Mike Jones featuring Slim Thug and Paul Wall

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 142-149

Friday, April 8

Listen to Song: "Hustlin'" by Rick Ross

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 174-179

Week #15

Monday, April 11

Class Cypher

Wednesday, April 13

Class Cypher

Friday, April 15

Class Cypher

Week #16

Monday, April 18

Listen to Song: "International Players Anthem" by UGK featuring Outkast

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 180-185

Wednesday, April 20

Listen to Song: "Control" by Big Sean, featuring Kendrick Lamar and Jay Electronica

Required Reading: Serrano, *The Rap Yearbook*, 216-221

Week #17: Finals Week

Final Exam (no class meeting): *Thursday, April 28, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm*

Final Paper Due: Email to professor (ikendi@ufl.edu) by 12:00 p.m.