Course: MUSI 4390  
Instructor: Kenneth Javier Iyescas

| Section: | W01 | Office: | BH 112 |
| Title: | Rap and Hip Hop Culture | Phone: | 825-2280 |
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| Credits: | 3 | Office Hours: | By appointment |

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A course for non-music majors. Rap and Hip Hop Culture traces the ideological, social, historical, and cultural influences on a musical genre that first came to prominence in the mid-1970s in one of New York's toughest neighborhoods, the South Bronx. This course describes how the arts of DJing, MCing, breakin' [b-boying], and graffiti developed as a way for this community's struggle to find its own voice. Addressed will be rap's early successes on the pop charts; its spread to mainstream culture; the growth of "gangsta rap" and mainstream society's reaction to it; and the commercial success of rap music from the 90s through today. Throughout, this course will highlight key performers, producers, and voices in the rap and hip hop movements, using their stories to illuminate the underlying issues of racism, poverty, prejudice, and artistic freedom that are part of rap and hip hop's ongoing legacy.

This satisfies the university core curriculum requirement in Fine Arts. There are no prerequisites.

TEXT AND MATERIALS
- Rap and Hip Hop Culture – Fernando Orejuela
  - ISBN: 9780199987733

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the completion of this course, you will be able to identify and recognize key performers, producers, and voices in the rap and hip hop movement. In addition, you will be able to discuss cogently the underlying issues of racism, poverty, prejudice, and artistic freedom that are part of rap and hip hop's history and culture.

COURSE OVERVIEW
There are ten units in the class, and I recommend you follow the suggested structure.

1. All reading, listening, and quizzes should be completed within the allotted time frames for each part. *Make sure to allot enough time for each assignment. Do not procrastinate.*
2. There are NO midterm or final exams.
Part I – What is Hip Hop? What Is Rap?
Part II – Hip Hop's Ground Zero: The South Bronx and Urban America
Part III – Graffiti Art and Breaking
Part IV – Rap's African and African American Cultural Roots
Part V – Old School DJs and MCs
Part VI – The Golden Era
Part VII – Hardcore: "Message Rap" and "Gangsta Rap"
Part VII – Hardcore II: Gangsta in the '90s and Responses from Within the Rap Community
Part IX – Hip Hop Culture and Rap Music in the Second Millennium
Part X – Conclusion

Reading, Listening Journal, and Quiz Due Dates

Part I – May 29 – 31
Part II – June 1 – 3
Part III – June 4 – 6
Part IV – June 7 – 9
Part V – June 10 – 12
Part VI – June 13 – 15
Part VII – June 16 – 18
Part VIII – June 19 – 21
Part IX – June 22 – 24
Part X – June 25 – 27

GRADING
Grading will be based on journal entries concerning listening reflections and quizzes. You must utilize Blackboard for all journal entries and quizzes in this class.

Late submissions of any/all assignments will be deducted 10% for every day late.

Quizzes – 70% of the final grade: There are assessments at the end of each Part. You will complete the assessments for all of the sections in the text. There are ten quizzes – you should have no trouble completing them quickly if you do them immediately after reading the text. You may use the text to complete these quizzes.

Journal Entries/Listening Reflections – 30% of the final grade: The listening assignments are graded by completion. All you need to do is to make sure you listen to all of the assigned/chosen tracks and submit a brief reflection/journal entry, in order to receive full credit for each one. There are many more listening examples available, but I only chose a few of my favorites for you to listen to. You’re welcome!

There are NO midterms or finals!
Grading Scale
A  90-100%
B  80-89%
C  70-79%
D  60-69%
F  59% and below

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero grade.
Academic Advising

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. June 15th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.