

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Music 123 – History of Hip Hop Culture

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This is a survey course that will examine the origins and rise of Hip-Hop as an artistic form and global cultural phenomenon. It is designed for students who wish to examine and explore Hip-Hop culture, while developing background knowledge of Hip-Hop history from the early 1970's South Bronx to its national and international role today. The connections between rap music and the other elements of Hip-Hop culture will be explored and students will be challenged to think critically about rap music and its place in society. Controversial subjects such as censorship, racism, sexism, and racial politics in America will be discussed as they relate to the subject matter.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Building blocks of Hip-Hop: the blues, worksongs, black oral traditions.
- 2) The rise of Hip Hop culture: social conditions from the African Diaspora to the Bronx.
- 3) The Bronx: the first commercial release of Hip-Hop recordings.
- 4) Graffiti: a closer look at graffiti and the struggle for urban space.
- 5) Female MC's: A look at female MC's from the early days of the culture.
- 6) Moving into the mainstream: Run DMC's influence and cross-over success expanding rap's audience.
- 7) Tupac Shakur: thug life and a conscious hip-hop.
- 8) Gangsta Rap: the shift towards the West Coast and the hard edged gangsta sound.
- 9) Women in Hip-Hop: women in the mid-90's hip-hop scene, gender and mainstream visibility.
- 10) Hip-Hop's mainstream success: The state of hip-hop from the 1990's to early 2000's
- 11) Mainstream dominance: Hip-Hop's position of mainstream cultural dominance.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Compare the timeline within East Coast and West Coast Hip-Hop history.
- 2) Compare key figures and innovators within the evolution of Hip-Hop and their influences on historical and cultural shifts.
- 3) Examine the social, political, and economic factors that contributed to and have impacted Hip-Hop history and culture.
- 4) Examine the contemporary issues surrounding Hip-Hop culture.
- 5) Develop critical thinking skills about rap music and its influence on society today.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Listening assignments
- 2) Group/Individual Projects/Presentations on topics such as politics, capitalism, misogyny, etc.
- 3) Research paper on topics such as politics, capitalism, misogyny, etc.
- 4) Quizzes, in-class exams, and a comprehensive in-class final.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom
- 2) Project recording studio

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture, discussion and demonstration
- 2) Small and large group discussion
- 3) In-class activities

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** course materials; articles; publications; other related multimedia.
- 2) **Writing:** critiques of assigned reading; research paper on a course related topic such as politics, capitalism, misogyny, etc.
- 3) **Other:** listening assignments; interviews.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Questlove and Ben Greenman. *Hip-Hop Is History*. AUWA, 2024.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Observe and identify musical elements in recorded or live performances.
- 2) Identify the features of the major developments in hip-hop music and culture.