HIP-HOP AND FEMINISM
Fall 2013
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OBJECTIVES

For more than 30 years, hip-hop has been the most pronounced cultural identifier for young Americans. This course seeks to address, analyze, explore and contest the political aspects of hip-hop music and culture through a close examination of feminism. This course is an analytic space for debate and discussion about the impact of hip-hop culture on the sexual, gender and political understandings of Americans and others around the world.

In addition to the traditional aspects of assigned readings, lectures and class discussions this class will include a significant independent research component, visits with experts in the field, and several Beyond the Classroom Experiences. This class is offered as a writing intensive course. It is not service learning eligible.
ASSESSMENT

You will produce one long paper (12-15 pages) in this class. The paper will include an empirical, quantitative analysis of data from the new “Outlook on Life and Political Engagement” survey.

Research proposal (3-4 pages): includes overall motivating question of the paper, specific hypotheses to be tested, specific survey questions you will use, a preliminary list of 5-7 outside sources. (10%)
Due: September 27 by 5pm

Paper outline and Annotated Bibliography (3-4 pages): Complete outline of research paper included specific data analysis to be performed. Annotation of 5-7 outside sources explaining their relevance to the research paper. (15%)
Due: October 25 by 5pm

Initial reporting of results and graphs/ tables/ figures. (length will vary) (15%)
Due: November 22 by 5pm

Final paper (12-15 pages) (30%)
Due: December 12 by 5pm

Poster based on the research paper at Hip-Hop and Feminism Conference. (15%)
Due: December 5

General class discussion, attendance and participation (5%)

Participation in and one (1) short reflection paper (2-4 pages) on a Beyond the Classroom experience. (10%)

Honor Code

You are bound by the Tulane University Honor Code in all the work that you do for this course at this university. See http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm.

**NOTE: You will lose points if your papers or assignments are late. 1/3 letter grade will be deducted for every 24 hours the assignment is late. No assignment will be accepted after 72 hours late without prior agreement.**

Students needing accommodations

Tulane University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students who need accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance. See http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/index.cfm
Required Texts:


Required Software:

This class requires that you have access to SPSS software for statistical analysis that is part of your final project.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1:    August 27

Introduction to the course

We will discuss the “Outlook on Life and Political Engagement” survey. The survey description and codebook is linked on the Blackboard site. Please be familiar with it on the first day of class.

Hip-Hop as a Cultural and Political Problem

Week 2:    September 3

What is at stake when culture meets politics?

Chapters 1-3 of Cathy Cohen’s Democracy Remixed


Week 3:    September 10

The Hip-Hop Wars

Tricia Rose, The Hip-Hop Wars. Chapters 3-8

Watch: “Hip Hop, Mass Media and Racial Storytelling in the Age of Obama”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_x1c6kt3JQ

Special Guest: Tricia Rose via Skype

Week 4:    September 17

What is different when women make the music?

Section 1 of Home Girls Make Some Noise: Hip Hop Feminism Anthology

Special Guest: DJ Soul Sister in class
http://www.djsoulsister.com

Women on the Mic

Week 5: September 24

Is it possible to be a Hip-Hop Feminist?

Joan Morgan, *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost*


**RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE BY FRIDAY at 5PM via EMAIL.**

Week 6: October 1


In class films:
Byron Hurt, *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*
Elizabeth Wood & Gabriel Nussbaum, *Wade in the Water*

Stats Break!

Week 7: October 8

The best stats class ever!

We will discuss how to use statistical tools to study the cultural and political issues we care about. I promise this class will be both fun and informative. Hip-hop and statistics! What could be better?

Bring the codebooks for the Outlook survey. You should be very familiar with it by now.
Meeting room TBA.

*Hip Hop and Stats Notes: Part I by Prof MHP on Blackboard
Sex and Sexuality

Week 8: October 15

Sex and Hip-Hop

Section 2 of *Homegirls Make Some Noise*  
(except Andreana Clay piece, which we will discuss 10/22)


**Special Guest: Professor Nghana Lewis**

Week 9: October 22

Sexuality and Hip-Hop


Clay, Andreana. “‘I used to be scared of the dick’: Queer women of color and hip-hop masculinity.” In *Homegirls Make Some Noise*, 148-166.

**OUTLINE AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE BY FRIDAY 5PM**

Stats Break!

Week 10: October 29

Second ever best stats class ever.

One more fabulous stats class! You are going to love this! Seriously….
Bring the codebooks for the Outlook survey. You should be very familiar with it by now.

*Hip Hop and Stats Notes: Part II by Prof MHP on Blackboard

**Girls and Identity Formation**

**Week 11: November 5**

Hip-Hop and Girls

Bettina Love, *Hip-Hop’s Li’l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South*

**Week 12: November 12**

Hip-Hop as a Feminist Tool


*Ruth Nicole Brown, *Black Girlhood Celebration: Toward a Hip Hop Pedagogy: The Political Future of Hip Hop Feminism*
Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 5 and Conclusion

**Special Guest: Ruth Nicole Brown via Skype**

**The Political Future of Hip Hop and Feminism**

**Week 13: November 19**

Hip Hop as a Feminist Political Strategy?


Pages 389-470 in *Homegirls Make Some Noise*

**RESULTS, GRAPHS and FIGURES DUE by FRIDAY at 5PM via EMAIL.**
Week 14: November 26

Hip-Hop in Politics and the Academy

Chapters 5 and 6 in Cathy Cohen, Democracy Remixed


Special Guest: Marcyliena Morgan via Skype
Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University
Executive Director of the HipHop Archive

Week 15: December 3

Conference planning and preparation for poster presentations. We will meet in location TBA to work together on this.

**Final Poster Presentation at Hip-Hop Feminism Conference Thursday, December 5**

**Final Paper Due Thursday, December 12 by 5PM**