Music Appreciation – Music 102 - Hip Hop Music and Culture

Music Appreciation II: Periods and Genres

Dr. Dana Reason

Course Number: Music 102

Contact Info: Email from Canvas to Instructor or reasonmd@oregonstate.edu

Course Location: Online Canvas.

Office Hours: Tues Online 10:00-12:00PM and by email Appointment.

Course Credits: This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities and assignments for 3 credits.

Course Catalog Description of Music Appreciation II: Periods and Genres:

A study of the masterworks of a single era (such as Baroque, classic, romantic, twentieth century) or a genre (such as orchestra, chamber, opera, musical theatre). See Schedule of Classes for topic being offered. For non-majors. Need not be taken in order. (FA) (Bacc Core Course) This course is repeatable for a maximum of 12 credits.

Course Description

This survey course traces the dynamic roots of Hip Hop from the early 1970s until today. The goal of this course is to broaden student appreciation of Hip Hop beyond the entertainment value of the music; towards a deeper understanding of the diverse voices and stylistic practices of this rich and influential musical genre. As a social location for many complex cultural and political issues, Hip Hop can be highly controversial. It is anticipated that students will have different experiences with and reactions to the music surveyed in this course. Through lively discussions, students examine and share their reactions to the significant musical and social issues of this highly influential music.

Prerequisites: None. No experience reading or playing an instrument is required. Please note that in accordance with the current and previous catalog(s), if you have or are planning on taking this particular genre and section more than once, please be advised that your final grade will not replace a previous grade. For example, if you take Music 102: Hip Hop in the fall and get a C, this C will stay on your transcript even if you take Music 102: Hip Hop again in the winter and get an A in the course.
This course fulfills the Baccalaureate Core requirement for the Core Perspectives Literature and Arts. Liberal Arts Fine Arts Core Category. It does so by examining the historical and cultural influences of Hip Hop music and culture.

Students in Literature and the Arts courses shall:

1. Recognize literary and artistic forms/styles, techniques, and the cultural/historical contexts in which they evolve.

   Through guided listening and reflective journals, students will be able to identify the historical developments of Hip Hop music from different rap artists and producers; and regions in the United States. Students will develop key musical concepts and understand a variety of stylistic techniques used by practitioners of Hip Hop music. Additionally, students explore the relationship between MC’ing and the other elements that informed hip hop such as: street art; breakdancing; and music technology.

2. Analyze how literature/the arts reflect, shape, and influence culture.

   Weekly written discussion boards provide the opportunity for students to engage with the music directly and the ideas and characteristics that various artists demonstrate and explore in their work. Students are challenged with the task to think like a rap artist (lyrically) and musically. Throughout the discussions students compare and contrast various artists so that they learn to recognize how artists utilize materials in unique and innovative ways. Students examine the various political and social nature of the works and how larger historical and cultural movements helped initiate new modes of creativity in this genre.

3. Reflect critically on the characteristics and effects of literary and artistic works.

   Students have the opportunity to write about several topics for their final projects. They can critically review a significant hip hop album for their final project, imitate a hip hop artist through writing a similar but original rhyme or musical work. Students have the opportunity of selecting a particular artist and writing about their biography and artistic development. All students will have developed critical listening and the ability to articulate different musical styles utilizing music vocabulary.

Textbook:
No required textbook
Instructor will provide links to online articles as required.

Grading
Grades will be based on the following percentages:
**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities (DAS)**

"Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at [http://ds.oregonstate.edu](http://ds.oregonstate.edu). DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations."

**Student Conduct**

“The primary purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to establish standards and procedures necessary to maintain a community conducive to learning, whether on-campus or online, and to advance the educational objectives of Oregon State University. The Code of Student Conduct promotes an environment that values inclusivity and respectful discourse. This Code applies to students at Oregon State University (see Section 2) and is based on the belief that all persons should treat one another with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive.” To view the full document, please click on the attached link: [http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code_of_student_conduct.pdf](http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code_of_student_conduct.pdf)

“Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.” To view the full document, please click on the attached link: [http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0](http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0)

**Diversity Statement:** The College of Health and Human Sciences strives to create an affirming climate for all students including underrepresented and marginalized individuals and groups. Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, physical or mental ability, religion, socioeconomic background, veteran status, sexual orientation, and marginalized groups. We believe diversity is the synergy, connection, acceptance, and mutual learning fostered by the interaction of different human characteristics.
Religious Holiday Statement
Oregon State University strives to respect all religious practices. If you have religious holidays that are in conflict with any of the requirements of this class, please see me immediately so that we can make alternative arrangements.

Discussion Boards: (25%) – Due Tuesday and Thursday
Each week there will be a discussion board assignment (unless otherwise noted by the Announcements in Canvas). Please read the discussion boards and then comment. Students will be assigned weekly grades for each discussion board, but the level of participation, quality and number of responses will count for up to 25% of the grade. The main focus of the discussion boards is for students to demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of Hip Hop topics and music studied in our class as well as interact with other students regarding the content and materials in the course. Instructor will provide a general overview and class-based comments via Announcements. Please be sure to read these regularly. Students will be contacted if their work is not sufficient. Please review the rubric under “Course Information” for guidelines on producing the highest quality discussion board posts.

You must participate at up to 2 times for each discussion board (unless otherwise specified in the Module). The first post should answer the questions posted and the second post is a response to someone else in the course. Please see the weekly discussion boards for due dates (subject to change).

Listening Journals (15%) – Due Friday
Listening to music and being able to evaluate, identify and assess the quality of music we study is an important component of our learning objectives in this course. Students develop the ability to actively listen rather than passively consume a variety of hip hop music. Students develop the ability to hear musical elements such as rhythm, melody, and harmony as well as write about the various ways the music unfolds. Students are taught how to analyze a song and how to apply basic song forms to other pieces of music. Students will also reflect on the socio-political meanings of the lyrics in their journals as well as learn how the music and the lyrics relate to each other. Students will also be taught how to think about the instrumental aspect of the song as rendered by various producers.

Throughout the course, there will be 3 listening journals for this class. These coincide with the materials you will be studying for each of the 3 quizzes. Students will be expected to learn and utilize vocabulary associated with the designated Modules in our course.

Quizzes (30%) Due Sunday
Quizzes: 3 quizzes worth 30% of the grade. (Week 3, Week 6, and Week 10)
Quizzes are not open book and should be completed in one sitting by yourself. Quizzes are multiple choice and include materials from the learning Module, discussion board prompts and responses, listening and any additional materials posted in the Announcements that contributes directly to our materials. Our quizzes serve as a way to identify and recall important developments in hip hop history and culture. Please make sure to have completed all assigned tasks for the week before taking the quiz. Students are given 2 attempts for the quizzes. We will keep your highest grade.

Creative Assignment: Choose One of the following from the list below: (10%)

- Create Graffiti (Due Sunday Week 5)
- Create an original Rap/Beat (Due Sunday Week 7)
- Attend and then Review a Live Hip Hop Concert (Due Sunday of Week 7)

Students can submit an original graffiti piece they create with spray-paint only (not markers etc.) (Please take photograph and send as an attachment) OR create an original rap or Hip Hop beat. The original rap or beat should be 3-4 minutes in length. Your work should illustrate variety and originality. Raps should be performed (and recorded by smart phone video) and the original lyrics, name of performer/rapper should also be submitted to the instructor to examine. Students may also submit a 2-3 page concert review from a live Hip Hop Concert that they have seen while class is in session this term.

Final Project (100 points - 20%) Due Wed (Finals Week)

Students are required to select a paper topic (or creative project) of their choice (supplied by the Instructor on Canvas). If you select to write a paper it is to be 5 pages double-spaced in a WORD document. The paper must include a title, author’s full name, and course title. Please make sure to remain available by email during finals week in case I have questions regarding your submission. Sometimes there are technical difficulties with submissions online. If you plan to submit a creative project (video, original rap or rapping to a song well known), please provide a link to the video or use My Media on Canvas. Do not attempt to upload large media files, as they may not work. Subsequent directions and guidelines will be provided in the weekly Announcements and applicable Modules to help you prepare.

Grading Scale:

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Late Work Policy

The instructor has the right to refuse late assignments. Late work can be docked up to 50% or more. Please email the Instructor anytime if you are experiencing challenges with the course or need additional help in any way.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

(Subject to change. Always check the class announcement board and stay current!)

*Holidays for each term will be added to the weekly schedule as necessary on CANVAS.*

Preview Week (Fall Term Only)

Submit Introductions (non graded assignment) – Due Friday September 22nd

Read through and Print Syllabus (available Fri. Sept. 22nd)

WEEK 1 –

*Introduction to Course: The Origins of Hip Hop*

Discussion Board #1- Due Tuesday by 11:55PM

Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM

WEEK 2 –

*Rappers Delight & The Message: Rap, Mcing and Freestyling*

Discussion Board #1- Due Tuesday by 11:55PM

Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM

WEEK 3 –
Parks and Trains: B-boys, B-Girls and Graffiti
Discussion Board #1- Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM
Listening Journal #1 – Due Friday by 11:55PM
Quiz #1 – Due Sunday by 11:55PM

WEEK 4 –
Scratching, Record Bins, Sampling and Legal Issues
Discussion Board #1 - Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM

WEEK 5 –
Hip Hop in the Neighborhood
Discussion Board #1 - Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM
Graffiti Project Due – Due Sunday by 11:55PM

WEEK 6 –
Make Some Noise: Producers, Labels and the East Coast/West Coast Drama
Discussion Board #1 - Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM
Listening Journal #2- Due Friday by 11:55PM
Quiz #2 – Due Sunday by 11:55PM

WEEK 7 –
Do’in the Right Thing VERSUS Gangsta’s Real and Imaginary
Discussion Board #1- Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM

Beat, Rhyme OR Live Hip Hop Concert Review - Due Sunday by 11:55PM (this due date is only for those students that did not submit graffiti in week 5)

WEEK 8 –

Ladies First: Women in Hip Hop

Discussion Board #1- Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
Discussion Board #2 – Due Thursday by 11:55PM

WEEK 9 –

Conscious and Global Rap

Discussion Board #1- Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
No second Discussion board this week

WEEK 10 –

Future Rap

Discussion Board #1- Due Tuesday by 11:55PM
Listening Journal #3 – Due Friday
Unit 10: Quiz #3 – Due Sunday

Finals Week –

Final Project Due - Wednesday Finals week