

# CES 210: Ethnic Experiences in Arts and Music

Bellevue College, Spring 2018

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## Course Details

**Class Sessions:** Daily | 11:30 – 12:20pm | R101  
**Instructor:** Clifford Cawthon, MA  
**E-mail:** clifford.cawthon@bellevuecollege.edu  
**Phone:** 425.564.6159  
**Office Location:** A200F  
**Office Hours:** M/W/Th: 9:30am-10:00am.  
I will also be available by appointment

**READ THE SYLLABUS**



**FIND HIDDEN ASSIGNMENT**

## Course Description

Utilizes historical and contemporary sources to survey the art, music and music-related traditions of a specific ethnic or regional group. This course will center itself in the examination of the musical genres hip-hop and rap, and contemporary and classic cinema. The samples of music and art studied will be at the discretion of the instructor. May be used as social science or humanities course requirement, not both, at BC.

Prerequisite: Placement by assessment into ENGL& 101 or ENGL 092 or 093 with a C- or better. Previously ETHN 210.

## Course Outcomes

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Read critically, actively and reflectively.
- Support their own conclusions about the validity of the assumptions and ideas they have encountered in the assigned readings.
- Form analytical questions about a text, a work of art, and/or a piece of music.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the aesthetic value of a piece of art or music has cultural/ethnic roots.
- Demonstrate analysis of art and/or music through rhetorical techniques.

### Behavioral Objectives:

- Approach race while avoiding racist tropes and stereotypes.
- Identify racist or marginalizing behavior in spheres of life.
- Be able to actually demonstrate and practice cultural competency.
- Dismantle oppressive behaviors

## Books and Required Materials

There is no assigned book. Book chapters, essays, journal articles and will be offered online in Canvas and/ or provided by the instructor. The following books are excellent guides and resources to understand the material for the course:

Thompson, Nato. 2017. *Culture As Weapon*.

Watkins, S. Craig. 2005. *Hip Hop Matters*.

I can understand that printing can be expensive and that you have a printing quota each quarter based upon technology fees. This quota is not likely to be sufficient for you to print all the materials and assignments for every course. I suggest that you visit any of the libraries within the [King County library system](#), which provides library users with 75 'units' of free printing per week. Also, please utilize canvas when appropriate.

## Other materials

The only required material you will need is a Netflix account. If you do not have one, go here. Most of the films required for your research will appear on Netflix. Films used from other streaming or cable services will be provided by your instructor.

### Course Sample

During the course of the class you will follow a show on Netflix that reflects a specific style, theme(s), concept(s) or issue(s) that relate to the course overall. This course sample will be used for your weekly journal.

The color scheme is the following: **Red- Most directly applicable; Green- Directly applicable yet, not universally so and specifically relevant sections; Goldenrod- Applicable ideas and perhaps some parts are specifically relevant.** For those who take

the goldenrod shows, I will add 1 extra point to their final project.

Please select one show (and one season) from the samples below:

*Rapture (2018) Netflix*

*Luke Cage, Season 1 (2017) Netflix*

*Jessica Jones, Season 1 or 2- not both- (2017/ 2018) Netflix*

*Black-ish (2016-present). Hulu*

*The Get Down, Parts 1 & 2 (2017) Netflix*

*She's Gotta Have It, Season 1 (1986/ 2017). Netflix*

*Atlanta, Season 1 (2017- present). Hulu*

## Updates and Changes Policy

If there are any significant changes to the schedule or assignments laid out in the syllabus then the Professor will post an Announcement and send an accompanying email through the Canvas e-learning system to notify students.

This will be done 24 hours in advance of the change in order to give students to adapt. If the change will effect the Course Assessments schedule (listed below) then it will be announced 48 hours in advance in order to solicit feedback from students.

## Grading

Course Assessments	Percentage
Mini Quizzes (based on journal and reading materials)	20%
Journal entries	15%
Op-ed submission	20%
Artist Profile Project	10%
Research Process Assignments	15%
Final Musical/ Poetry/ or Film Project	20%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	92 - 100%
A-	90 - <92%
B+	88 - <90%
B	82 - <88%
B-	80 - <82%
C+	78 - <80%
C	72 - <78%
C-	70 - <72%
D+	68 - <70%
D	60 - <68%
F	<60%

A NOTE ON ASSIGNMENTS: All work will be submitted through canvas

# Assignments

## *Mini Quizzes (4):*

*20% of grade*

This course will have four quizzes over its three month run. These quizzes will consist of 10 questions maximum or, if the quiz is an essay, the maximum wordcount will be 500 words.

## *Journals*

*15% of grade*

During the course you will be required to write a weekly summary of how your chosen course sample relates to: a) something we've discussed in class; b) or creates a conceptual conflict with something we've discussed in class; c) provides an alternative or complementary PoV to something we've discussed in class.

## *Op-ed Submission (i.e. Midterm Assignment)*

*20% of grade*

This will be a substitute for the midterm. You will be required to write a 700 word opinion piece on a given topic that must be submitted to both your instructor for review and then, two local newspapers/ blogs of your choice.

## *Artist Profile Research Project*

*10% of grade*

During class we will mention a number of specific artists, film-makers or personalities. This assignment is intended for you to understand the significance of one of those trailblazing figures to this field. You will be required to create a presentation that will be shared with the class about this musical, cinematic, artistic, or poetic figure. This can be done in a variety of multimedia or written formats.

## *Research Process/ Tasks Assignment*

*15% of grade*

In the run up to your final project as described below, you will be required in the course beginning on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to submit assignments based on various tasks related to building for your final Project. Your instructor will provide you with details.

## *Final Musical, Film, or Poetry Project*

*20% of grade*

During finals week there will not be a final exam in class, instead you will have to complete a final project. This project will challenge you to produce a piece of art of your choosing, based on the material presented in class. This will be subject to peer review, with the final grade being calculated by your instructor.

# Attendance and Course Structure

Attendance is not mandatory but, it is essential for success. During this course, our in-class conversations will be pivotal to producing a successful final project and successfully completing the final assignments.

Due to the research-based nature of this course not every day will be compulsory. The **Research Period** will fall upon every Thursday unless noted otherwise and students are expected to do self-directed research and/or submit required research materials within this 24 hour period.

Every Friday will be considered a "lab" period unless noted otherwise. The "lab" will be a period in which every student will be required to bring a sample of art and present the sample to the class for

dissection and discussion. Please see community agreements, they will most certainly apply during this discussion period. Everyone will be required to participate in the lab in some meaningful way.

## Course Schedule

*(Updates to this schedule will be posted to the Canvas, also please see “Updates and Changes Policy”)*

Assignments shall be posted onto the calendar no later the ***April 5, 2018.***

Week 1 – Intro: 4/2- 6

Week 2 – The beginning of hip-hop: 4/9-13

Week 3 – Race, Oppression and Resistance: 4/16-20

Week 4 – People of Color in Film and TV: 4/23- 5/4

Week 5 – Media Consolidation and Commercialization A.K.A. “The Industry”: 5/7-11

MIDTERM 5/15- Same place, same time.

Week 6 – Racism, Sex and Gender in Hip Hop: 5/14-18

Week 7 – Criminalization and Artistic Resistance: 5/21-25

Week 8 – The rise of West Coast Hip Hop & Seattle’s hip-hop scene: 5/28-6/1

Week 9 – The digital side of things: 6/4-8

Final Presentations & Presentations! **Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 11:30am- 1:20pm.**

## Community Agreements

This is never a pleasant section to discuss but, as a public institution, Bellevue College has a [Code of Conduct and Regulations](#) that, as a student, you are bound to follow.

In this particular class, there are a few community agreements (a.k.a. rules) that will be central to all of us making sure you are successful, so we can all be successful:

1. Respect: This is fundamental to our success. Everyone comes into this classroom with a valid viewpoint. Each of us deserves to be seen as worthwhile and each of us must give that respect to the other. This means that this classroom is a ***no shame zone. You will not be judged by myself or anyone else in class for the way you look, the way you ask a question, for asking a question, for having trouble with the coursework, for who you***

***are and for being yourself. In fact, on the last point, you'll be applauded for being yourself!***

2. Disagree but, don't be disagreeable: If someone makes a point that you disagree with or find downright distasteful, don't make it personal. Just disagree and move on- or come up with a good argument.

3. Integrity: Take responsibility for what you have done.

4. Don't Plagiarize! Don't copy others work and submit it as your own. We will find out.

5. Step up, step back: If you like to contribute to classroom conversations, contribute to the learning of your fellow students who may be a bit more shy and create space for them to speak up. It's not a bad thing to contribute but, sometimes one can take up more space and marginalize others without intending to.

6. Everyone is everyone: this is a space for all races, classes, genders, sexualities, nationalities, and persons. Racism or any other oppressive slurs or behavior **will not be tolerated and result in your immediate exit from the course.** That goes for harassment as well (see point #1).

7. Last but, not least, you will have the classroom experience that you create. In other words, if you are disruptive, hostile, or outright refuse to participate then you'll probably feel very uncomfortable in class. If you adhere to these expectations and come to class, with the desire to learn, engage, and grow then there's no "dumb questions", you'll always be heard, and you will always be respected.

## **Late work and Classroom Policies**

**Late work:** Assignments are due on the date listed in the course schedule and the quizzes/tests will be in-class on the date listed in the schedule. You will have a period of two weeks after the assignment due date to turn in late work for 85% of the grade. This means that if you turn in work during this two-week period, I will multiply your final score by 85/100.

You do not need to ask me to turn in work during this period; all you need to do is turn it in. Late work may lead to delays in grading and delays in instructor feedback, as I will prioritize work that is turned in on time. In-class quizzes and tests do not qualify for this policy.

If your work is more than two weeks late or you are falling behind due to emergency/unforeseen circumstances, you can work with me to create an individualized plan. Please do not make requests for extensions in person at the beginning or end of a class period because it is difficult for me to properly keep track of agreements made hastily. Instead, email me at [clifford.cawthon@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:clifford.cawthon@bellevuecollege.edu) or please schedule a time to meet with me or come to my office hours.

**English Second (or more) Language Students:** If English is your second language, you can use a translation dictionary during in-class assessments (quizzes and exams). The dictionary must be a book not an electronic dictionary, and it must be the type of translation dictionary that only includes the translation, not the definition. If English is a second (or third



or fourth) language, I encourage you to talk with me directly so that we can make sure the learning environment works for you.

**Electronics Policy:** At the beginning of class please turn your phone on silent and put it away. Unless I state otherwise, phones are not allowed in class. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. Students who use their laptops for notes must submit their notes to me electronically following each and every class period. This is so that I know that you are using your laptop for note-taking only.

If at any point you feel that you need to use your device(s) for communications, please quietly get up and do so outside.

In order to respect the wishes of other, by default there is no recording of any audio or video allowed in the classroom. Nevertheless, if any of these policies prohibit you from being able to learn in the fullest possible way, please meet with me to work out an individualized solution.

**Email and Canvas Inbox:** Canvas provides many different places to communicate with me (replies to my feedback/grading, etc.), which can sometimes make communicating more challenging than it needs to be. The best ways to communicate with me are: in person during office hours (or by appointment); through my BC email; or the Canvas 'inbox'. I may check these locations at odd hours, such as at night or over the weekend. But please do not expect me to reply outside of regular business hours. Respect the dynamic that teaching this class is my workplace. On my end I will be answering your messages swiftly. However, if I do not answer your inquiry in about a day, you should feel comfortable to follow up.

## **Institutional Commitments and Policies**

### **Affirmation of Inclusion**

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

### **Religious Holidays**

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

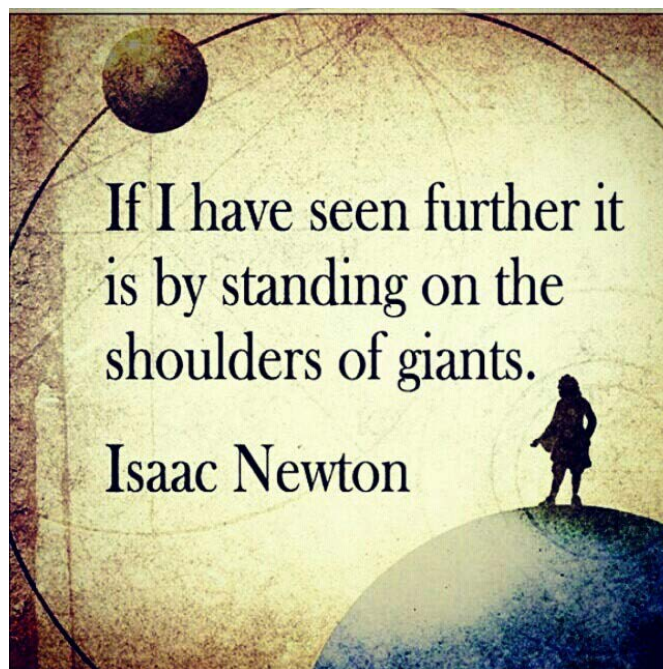
## College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

## Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Such behavior will result in a zero grade for the assignment/exam in question. Please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050p/>.

*The Lesson: We stand on the Shoulders of Giants, We don't claim to be giants.*



## Important Resources/Services

### Disability Resource Center – B132

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC as soon as possible. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#). Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call the reception desk at (425) 564.2498. Deaf students can reach the DRC by Skype: the address is **DRCatBC** (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually **DRCatBC**). Please visit the website at [Disability Resource Center](#) for application information and other helpful links.



**Multicultural Services – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of B building (above the bookstore)**

Multicultural Services (MCS) is a student-centered service program on campus that is designed to support all students in general, and diverse student populations in particular. MCS is a broad program that can assist students with tutoring in Math and English as well as help students locate community resources such as food and housing assistance. Please familiarize yourself with MCS by stopping by or visiting: [bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/)

**Counseling Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of B building (above the bookstore)**

The Counseling Center provides personal, career, and academic counseling for all registered BC students. The Counseling Center can be a helpful place for locating community resources (referrals) as well as free counseling appointments with the center's staff of licensed mental health counselors. Please familiarize yourself with the services offered by the counseling center by stopping by or visiting: [bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/)