

SOC 198

Hip Hop Wars

Spring 2019

Instructor: Nicholas Russ, M.A History, M.A African American Studies

Office Hours M- Thursday 9:30-10:30 or by app A tower Room 100-C

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Course Description:

This class will use Hip-Hop as a vehicle to examine the social, political and economic issues of the day. How does Hip Hop seek to address or examine the multi-layered realities of the marginalized? Has the increasing commodification of Hip-Hop diluted the message? Was the message always about capitalistic excess? Is Hip-Hop revolutionary? Or does it simply reinforce the harmful messages normalized through market culture? Does Hip-Hop serves a catalyst for change? Or does it represent a normalization of deviant behavior? Is Hip-Hop the true impediment to black and brown progress or simply a convenient scapegoat for the powerful?

Required Text:

Hip Hop Wars: What we talk about when we talk about Hip-Hop and why it Matters. Tricia Rose 2008

What is expected of you?

In this class, I am looking for you to challenge yourself and display through assigned writings, group presentations that you are wrestling with the course material. Your ultimate success in this class is contingent on your ability to engage with the material and your classmates.

Assignments

Chapter Reviews/ 30 points

You will write chapter reviews on three of the chapters from the book The Hip-Hop Wars. There will be an assignment prompt giving for this assignment.

Group Presentation /50 points

Your group presentation will consist of you choosing an issues in Hip-Hop and giving a presentation to the class. Details for this assignment will be given throughout the quarter.

Personal Mixtape/ 60 points

So weekly you pick a song and do a write up about how this song influences and speak to your life and experiences in the context of issues in Hip-Hop.

Discussion Questions/ 30

There will be in class discussion questions dealing with issues in Hip-Hop. You will answer these questions in groups or by yourself for credit.

Participation

It is imperative that you recognize that you are required to do more than attend. I expect students to engage and be active in the creation of a strong intellectual community. Being a passive participant will not be tolerated.

Grading Breakdown

Your grade will be determined by how many points you earn divided how many points are possible. Bellevue College utilizes a consistent, published letter grading system to reflect the student's achievements.

Plagiarism

The principal of academic honesty guides this class. Be honest with yourself and do not cheat. Instructors have access to commercial software that detects plagiarism. There will be severe penalties for participating in academic dishonesty.

Attendance

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. Regular and punctual attendance at all scheduled classes is expected, and the university reserves the right to deal at any time individual cases of nonattendance. Attendance is expected and continued absences will affect your grade.

Class Schedule

Week 1: Syllabus

Week 2: Hip Hop Causes Violence

Week 3: Hip Hop Reflects Black Dysfunctional Ghetto Culture

Week 4: Hip Hop is Destroying American Values

Week 5: Hip Hop is not responsible for Sexism

Week 6: Capitalism and Hip-Hop

Week 7: Hip-Hop and the Police

Week 8: Hip Hop Intolerance

Week 9: Is Hip Hop Revolutionary?

Week 10: Group Presentations

Week 11: Activism and Hip Hop

Readings subject to change