

MUHL 2624 - Survey of Hip Hop

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41871,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Stephen Harvey

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Stephen Harvey

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

MM in Music Jazz Studies, Youngstown State University

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Course Description

2624. Survey of Hip Hop. An historical survey of Hip Hop music from its origins through the early 21st Century. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Rap and Hip Hop Culture	Fernando Orejuela	

Rap and Hip Hop Culture by Fernando Orejuela (Oxford University Press)

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Introduction: What is hip hop? What is rap? Read Chapter 1		Material as assigned
8/31	Week 2 9/1 The South Bronx: Historical and Social Context: What is hip hop, and how is it distinguished from rap? What is hip hop's significance in American culture? What were the social, economic, and political conditions that gave birth to hip hop culture? Read Chapter 2		Material as assigned
9/7	The Emergence of a Hip Hop Community: How and why did graffiti writers, DJs, and dancers come together to form a community? Read Chapter 3		Material as assigned
9/14	Cultural Roots: How is hip hop connected to the cultural traditions of the African and African American diasporas? Read Chapter 4		Material as assigned



9/21	Review Chapters 1-4 Ch 1-4 Exam	Material as assigned
9/28	The Emergence of Old-School Hip Hop: How did the emergence of MCs grow the community and appeal to the commercialization of hip hop music? Read Chapter 5	Material as assigned
10/5	The Concept of the "New School" and the Golden Era: When and how did hip hop music become a cross-cultural, mass-marketed commodity? What is the meaning of tradition, and how is this concept reflected in the new school? Read Chapter 6	Material as assigned
10/12	Messages Rap, Hard Core, and Concepts of Black Nationalism: How is message or conscious rap related to the ideology of Black Power and the concept of soul? Read Chapter 7, pp. 107–116	Material as assigned
10/19	New School's Hard Core Rap, G-style: How does rap represent both social and political commentary and a voice of resistance? Read Chapter 7, pp. 116–134	Material as assigned
10/26	Chapter 5-7 Review Chapter 5-7 Exam	Material as assigned
11/2	New School's Hard Core Rap II, Gangsta and X-Rated—Real or Imagined: What are some of the issues that underscore the representation and exploitation of rap music? What are the social roots of gangsta and X-rated rap, and how can we relate these forms to African American folk traditions? Read Chapter 8, pp. 135–150	Material as assigned
11/9	The Gangsta Trend and Issues of Representation: How did non-gangsta rappers respond to gangsta rap's domination in the 1990s? Read Chapter 8, pp. 150–172	Material as assigned
11/16	Going Underground, Going South: What is underground hip hop? Where is the "Third" Coast? Read Chapter 9, pp. 173–188	Material as assigned
11/23	Styles, Identities, and the New Millennium: How have hip hop culture and music influenced new forms of youth expression? How has hip hop changed in the second millennium? Read Chapter 9, pp. 189–205 and Chapter 10 Chapter 10 Discussion Final Timeline Submission	Material as assigned
11/30	Chapter 8-10 Review Chapter 8-10 Exam	Material as assigned
12/7	Final exam	Material as assigned

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