HISTORY 404: TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY
THE HIP-HOP GENERATION

Spring 2016
MW, 11:00-12:15, Engelmann B38
Final paper due: MO, May 9, 11:00

Professor: Greg Carter
Office hours: MW, 12:30-1:30, Holton 347
cartergt@uwm.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Since the late 1970s, hip-hop has gone from a set of African-American and Latino cultural forms from the Bronx to one of the most profitable and popular styles worldwide. Some assert that hip-hop has been a means to purvey age-old images of blacks as bestial, violent, and criminal, while others praise it as the voice of a generation. At the same time, the United States has undergone transformations easily as significant as those of the previous three decades of the post-World War II period, with some from groups facing racism, sexism, and poverty enjoying civil rights legislation, while others do not. Recent decades have also seen an appreciation for creative traditions from around the world simultaneous with battles over the bounds of multiculturalism. This class will use hip-hop as a lens to examine recent United States history with these trends in mind. Towards this end, we will employ both traditional, historical texts and the latest cultural studies writings. I will provide the bulk of the former during class lectures, and your reading assignments will introduce you to the latter. Our discussions will bring the noise, cross-fading between the two. All the while, issues of race, class, gender, ethnicity, culture, and sexuality will repeat themselves like the breaks.

A warning: This is not a music appreciation class. Love of hip-hop alone will not get you through. Rather, attention to the texts at hand will help you get paid. In the end, you might hate hip-hop as much as you love it—just as you might hate life in the United States as much as you love it.

LEARNING GOALS:
- To appreciate how popular culture and recent United States history are serious areas of inquiry.
- To study of socio-cultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, and societal development within the milieu of hip-hop.
- To scrutinize perspectives, methodologies, and philosophic constructs we use to describe, explain and evaluate American (racial, class, and gender) identities over historical time.
Texts:
These will be available uwm.ecampus.com, but you are free to purchase them wherever you like.


I will also present a variety of primary and secondary sources, song lyrics, movies, and documentaries in class.

Course Requirements:

- **Attend class regularly and punctually:** More than three unexcused absences will result in losing 10% from one’s final grade. Because of its ability to disrupt class, lateness by more than 15 minutes may result in an unexcused absence.
- **Read all assigned texts:** You have around 50-75 pages of reading a week. I will give guidance on how to approach them, but it is up to you to manage your time and come to class familiar with the material.
- **Participate actively in discussions:** Your preparations should help with this. But your perspectives will add unique flavor to our conversations. Laptop use is acceptable, but conspicuous surfing may result in a penalty to your participation and attendance grade. On the other hand, put away all cell phones, iPods, Blackberries, etc., for the whole class period.
- **Complete all assignments on time:** Unexcused late assignments will lose 10% for every twenty-four hours they are late. For the take-home final, I will subtract 10% for missing the initial deadline, and another 10% for every twenty-four hours after that. For the take-home final, I will subtract 10% for missing the initial deadline, and another 10% for every twenty-four hours after that. Finals arriving with 72 hours of unexcused late will receive an “F.”

Students will have three major assignments over the semester:

- **Weekly quizzes:** Once a week, either on Monday or Wednesday, I will give a short quiz at the beginning of class, both as a warm-up and a means to determine what everyone is getting from the readings.
- **Tests:** There will be two midterm tests, one during Week 5 and the other during Week 10. They will feature 15 short answer questions, mostly repeated from the quizzes since the previous test. I will announce these well in advance, and use both preceding classes as review sessions.
- **Final paper:** After the second test, I will distribute listing critically-acclaimed hip-hop albums released since 1984. You will pick one of them and write a five- to six-page essay about the album and the years around its release. (Only one person per album, first come first served.) Include at least five terms we’ve used in the class, which you’ll put in bold font.

Your essay should find a balance of personal response and historical analysis, not just a review or summary of the album. Engagement with the concepts we’ve discussed
will help raise it beyond that level. Consider the lyrics, the artists’ image, and the visuals (if you consider the music videos too). It should have a minimum of six sources (three primary and three secondary), with a maximum of two from the internet. Note: I consider electronic versions of articles from UWM library’s online databases (i.e., newspaper articles from Lexis-Nexis) as non-internet. **THIS ESSAY IS DUE WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

**Grading:**
- Participation: 25%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Test 1: 15%
- Test 2: 15%
- Test 3: 15%
- Final paper: 15%

**Policies:**
**Attendance:** Missing class more than four times because of unexcused absences will result in losing 10% from one’s final grade. If you must miss class for medical, athletic, or religious reasons, please provide me with documentation as soon as possible. If you need an extension on an assignment because of an excusable absence, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Late assignments:** Unexcused late assignments will lose 10% for every twenty-four hours they are late. For the take-home final, I will subtract 10% for missing the initial deadline, and another 10% for every twenty-four hours after that. Finals arriving with 72 hours of unexcused late will receive an “F.”

**Academic misconduct:** CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM ARE UNACCEPTABLE, AND WILL RESULT IN COURSE FAILURE. If requirements are unclear, or if you find an assignment overwhelming, it is best to consult me beforehand so we can work out something.

UWM expects each student to be honest in academic performance. Failure to do so may result in discipline under rules published by the Board of Regents (UWS 14). The most common forms of academic dishonesty are cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes:
- Submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance, such as copying from another student’s exam, allowing a student to copy from your exam; or,
- Using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty; such as using formulas or data from a computer program, or using unauthorized materials for a take-home exam; or,
- Obtaining and using unauthorized material, such as a copy of an examination before it is given; or,
- Fabricating information, such as data for a lab report; or,
- Violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, test, or other
evaluation; or,
- Collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty’s consent; or;
- Cooperating with or helping another student to cheat; or,
- Other forms of dishonest behavior, such as having another person take an examination in your place; or, altering exam answers and requesting the exam be re-graded; or, communicating with any person during an exam, other than the exam proctor or faculty.

Plagiarism includes:
- Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them; or,
- Using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them; or,
- Paraphrasing materials or ideas of others without identifying the sources.

Academic integrity means honesty concerning all aspects of academic work. Students are encouraged to consult with faculty to develop:
- Correct procedures for citing sources of information, words and ideas.
- Ways to properly credit collaborative work with project team or study group members.
- Strategies for planning and preparing for exams, papers, projects and presentations.
- Alternative procedures for quiz/exam conditions in classroom environment where cheating has been observed.

If a student is charged with academic misconduct, there are specific procedures, including the right of appeal, which must be followed by UWM. Sanctions imposed by the university in response to academic misconduct range from reprimands to expulsion. **COURSE FAILURE IS LIKELY.**

If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please read the pages at the following URL:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html

Students with disabilities: Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate materials and test accommodations can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf

Religious observances: Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Students called to active military duty: Details on accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are at:
http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm
Incompletes: The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students are at this web page:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment): Definitions of discrimination. Harassment, abuse of power, and the reporting requirements of discriminatory conduct are found at:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

Complaint procedures: Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

Grade appeal procedures: Procedures for student grade appeal appear here:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm

Final examination policy: Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (September 6)</th>
<th>Week 6 (October 9, 11)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W: Orientation</td>
<td>M: Chang, Ch. 8</td>
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<td>W: Chang, Ch. 9</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2 (September 11, 13)</th>
<th>Week 7 (October 16, 18)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M: Chang, Ch. 1</td>
<td>M: Chang, Ch. 10</td>
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<td>W: Chang, Ch. 2</td>
<td>W: Chang, Ch. 12</td>
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<th>Week 3 (September 18, 20)</th>
<th>Week 8 (October 23, 25)</th>
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<tr>
<td>M: Chang, Ch. 3</td>
<td>M: Chang, Ch. 13</td>
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<td>W: Chang, Ch. 4</td>
<td>W: Chang, Ch. 14</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4 (September 25, 27)</th>
<th>Week 9 (October 30, November 1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M: Chang, Ch. 5</td>
<td>M: Chang, Ch. 15</td>
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<td>W: Chang, Ch. 6</td>
<td>W: Chang, Ch. 16</td>
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<th>Week 5 (October 2, 4)</th>
<th>Week 10 (November 6, 8)</th>
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<tr>
<td>M: REVIEW SESSION</td>
<td>M: REVIEW SESSION</td>
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<td>W: TEST</td>
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<td>Week 11 (November 13, 15)</td>
<td>Week 12 (November 20, 22)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M:</strong> Coates, 1-36</td>
<td><strong>M:</strong> Coates, 73-102</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W:</strong> Coates, 37-72</td>
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<td><strong>Week 13 (November 27, 29)</strong></td>
<td><strong>M:</strong> Coates, 102-132</td>
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