MUSC295: GLOBAL HIP HOP
SPRING 2012

Instructor: Eric Charry, MS 201, ext. 2579, echarry@wesleyan.edu
Course hours: Tu-Th 10:30am to 11:50am, MS301
Office hours: TBA and by appointment
Course websites: http://musc295.blogs.wesleyan.edu; https://moodle.wesleyan.edu

SYLLABUS

Course description
Over the past two decades hip hop, in its various facets of rap, deejaying, dance, visual art, fashion, and attitude toward authority, has gradually taken over as a primary medium of expression for youth around the world. Used as mass entertainment, elite aesthetic statement, social and political commentary, tool for education and social change, vehicle for economic opportunity, and as the core of a cultural movement, hip hop has proven malleable enough to thrive embedded in scores of different languages and cultures around the world and effectively speak to local needs. Yet its local manifestations have also managed to retain their membership in a global hip hop culture, now in its second or third generation. In this seminar we will study the global spread of hip hop from an interdisciplinary approach, examining it from aesthetic, cultural, social, musical, linguistic, kinetic, economic, and technological perspectives. An overriding concern will be the classic paradox that the global dispersion of hip hop rides on two seemingly opposing waves of authenticity: being true to its origins in contemporary African American urban youth culture; and being true to oneself, that is, representing one’s own locality, concerns, and culture. We will first review the rise and dispersion of hip hop culture in the US. Then we will move around the world examining local case studies and their more global implications. Student interest and expertise will be taken into account in the overall balance of the semester.

Required texts (available at Broad St. Books)

Course Requirements
Reading: You are required to read the books and online reserve articles and chapters as indicated in the syllabus and announced each class.

Listening: All required listening is either on online reserve (as streamed mp3s) through the Olin library ERes page or linked on the course blog. You are required to listen to and study the pieces discussed in each class.

Viewing: Perry/VH1 (2004) will provide an initial foundation for the semester. Numerous other feature-length documentaries will be required viewing throughout the semester. Youtube videos will be a primary resource throughout the semester.

Participation: All students are expected to fully participate in class discussions and projects.

Writing: Responses to the assigned reading, a midterm paper (5-7 pages) and a final research paper (9-11 pages) on any relevant topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Complete citations and/or footnotes should be given for all of the sources in the paper. Websites may be used, but they should be fully cited. All written assignments must be submitted electronically via Moodle by the start of class time on the due date.

Group and Solo Projects: Students will make several presentations throughout the semester. The final project consists of the final paper and a solo oral presentation based on it.
**Attendance Policy:** Consistent class attendance is required and students are expected to arrive on time. Any problems should be discussed with the instructor as unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade. Please keep cell phones turned off while in class.

**Grades:** Your grade will be primarily determined as follows: Written responses (20%) + Midterm paper (25%) + Presentations (20%) + Final paper (35%).

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please contact me during the 1st week of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at [http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html).
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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Thurs. 1/26</th>
<th>INTRODUCTION</th>
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| Week 2      | Tues. 1/31  | **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**  
McLeod (1999: 134-150)  
| Thurs. 2/2  | US          | Cramer and Hallett (2010: 256-276)  
Hammond (2007) |
| Week 3      | Tues. 2/7   | US            
Fernandes (2011: 1-23, 79-107 [Intro, Chicago])  
Neate (2003: 1-65 [Intro, New York])  
| Thurs. 2/9  | FRANCE      | Prévos (2002: 1-21)  
al Malik (2009)  
Huq (2006: 14-31) |
| Week 4      | Tues. 2/14  | FRANCE        |
| Thurs. 2/16 | FRANCE      |              |
| Week 5      | Tues. 2/21  | UK            
Wood (2009: 175-190)  
Hesmondalgh and Melville (2001: 86-110)  
| Thurs. 2/23 | UK          |              |
| Week 6      | Tues. 2/28  | **EUROPE/GERMANY**  
Androutsopoulos and Scholz (2003: 463-479)  
Bennett (2000: 133-165)  
| Thurs. 3/1  | GERMANY     | Templeton (2005: 107-119, 175-199) |
| Week 7      | Tues. 3/6   | AUSTRALIA     
Fernandes (2011: 109-145 [Sydney])  
| Thurs. 3/8  | ISSUES: AUTHENTICITY, IDENTITY IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT  
Bennett (2001: 88-103)  
Terkourafi (2010: 1-18)  
**MIDTERM PAPER DUE** |

SPRING BREAK
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 3/27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Charry (2012b, 2012c)</td>
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<td>Ntarangwi (2009: 20-43)</td>
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<td>Neate (2003: 109-201 [Johannesburg, Cape Town])</td>
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<td>Tues. 4/3</td>
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<td>JAPAN</td>
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<td>Condry (2006)</td>
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<td>Neate (2003: 67-107 [Tokyo])</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
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<td>CUBA/ VENEZUELA</td>
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<td>Fernandes (2011: 25-77, 147-181 [Havana, Caracas])</td>
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<th>Week 11</th>
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<td>Tues. 4/17</td>
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<td>Neate (2003: 203-252 [Rio de Janeiro])</td>
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<td>Thurs. 4/19</td>
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<td>ISSUES: GLOBALIZATION, AUTHENTICITY</td>
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<td>Pennycook and Mitchell (2009: 25-42)</td>
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<td>Fernandes (2011: 183-192 [Epilogue])</td>
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| Week 14     |   | SOLO PRESENTATIONS       |

|   |   | FINAL PAPER DUE: 3:00pm Thursday May 17 |
Bibliography

Androutsopoulos, Jannis and Arno Scholz

Bennett, Andy

Charry, Eric

Condry, Ian

Cramer, Jennifer and Jill Hallett

Fernandes, Sujatha

Hammond, Bob

Hesmondalgh, David and Caspar Melville

Huq, Rupa

al Malik, Abd

McLeod, Kembrew

Neate, Patrick

Ntarangwi, Mwenda

Pennycook, Alastair

Prévost, André J. M.

Shipley, Jesse Weaver
Templeton, Inez  

Terkourafi, Marina  

Wood, Andy  

Videography

Perry, Dana (prod., dir.)  
2004  And You Don’t Stop: 30 Years of Hip Hop. 5 episodes. Perry Films/VH1.