

# History of Hip Hop

## DANC 1013

### Oct 10-14 (M-F) 8:00AM-5:00PM

### Fall 2022

**Instructor:** Sara Pickett

**Email:** sara.pickett@utah.edu

**Available hours:** Daily after class

**Schedule:** Oct. 10-14<sup>th</sup>, M-F, 8:00AM-5:00PM

**Location:** TDB

**Credit:** 3

## Course Description

This course introduces students to a basic understanding of the History of Hip Hop as a culture and its elemental ties to art, spoken word, music and dance. This course fulfills a Fine Arts Exploration (FF) and Diversity (DV) General Education Requirement.

**This course contains adult material.**

## Required Materials

- **There are no required textbooks for this class.** This course will incorporate **assigned readings** from various texts to aide topics of open forum discussion in class and will be available as pdfs through Canvas. The readings will be made available through Canvas 2 weeks before the course begins. As part of the out-of-classroom requirements for this course, students are expected to have read all the material **BEFORE** the first day of instruction.
- Laptop computer or smart device that connects to the internet for in class assignments.

Ensure you have these ahead of time as they will be required to complete assignments and activities throughout the course.

## Goals & Objectives

This course is designed for undergraduate students who wish to examine and explore hip hop as a cultural and artistic phenomenon, while developing background knowledge of hip hop history from the early 1970's South Bronx to its national and international role today. This course will also utilize a movement component, where several hours will be devoted to spending time in the studio physicalizing styles of hip hop dance.

Additional topics include (but are not limited to) hip hop's root ties to elements of the African Diaspora, Latino/Puerto Rican/Dominican influences, issues of class in the beginnings of hip hop, commercialization and commodification of the hip hop industry, sexual politics, and hip hop as performance.

*At the end of this course, students will be able to:*

- Know the foundational structures, concepts and forms within the roles of the DJ, B-boy/B-girl, MC, and Graf artist.
- Identify key figures and innovators within the evolution of hip hop.
- Examine the social, political, and economic factors that contributed to and have impacted hip hop history and culture.
- Discuss contemporary theoretical issues surrounding hip hop culture (i.e. racial stereotypes, issues of gender/homophobia/masculinity/misogyny in rap, sexual politics, commercialism of the hip hop industry, etc.)
- Participate in an environment that employs critical thinking skills in a communal forum, where students can respectfully analyze and dialogue about vital topics

## Communication

The preferred way to contact your instructor directly is to use the *Inbox*, located in the far-left Canvas menu.

## Evaluation

Much of this course relies on open forum discussion, where questions presented in class aim to probe and dissect the reasoning within social, political, and economic factors/disparities in hip hop's evolution and history. This employs both groupthink critical reasoning and the development of individual critical thinking skills. ***Students are encouraged to draw upon personal experiences or connections with material- or acknowledge the lack thereof, to form well-rounded perspectives and opinions while also taking into account diverse viewpoints that may differ from their own.*** As we investigate and create theoretical discourses around these topics, the class will also be encouraged to give thought to the implications and consequences that historical events, cultural shifts, and social, political, and economic factors/disparities may have within the larger framework of hip hop.

All work within this course will be conducted with the highest respect of others in an environment that welcomes risk-taking, supports students working outside of their normal comfort areas, invites discussion, independent and perhaps divergent opinions, and integrates experiential, creative and theoretical knowledge in order to come to a deep understanding of the subject.

**Students must attend class EVERY DAY to receive credit for the course.**

Your performance in this course will be evaluated by:

- **Readings:** Readings/articles will be on Canvas in the “Readings” folder under files. It is the student’s responsibility to read and study them carefully and come to class prepared to discuss the material. There will be a schedule of readings that accompany discussion days. \*Students are encouraged to read ALL the articles BEFORE the week of class, as they will be time consuming.
- **In-class writings:** Students will reflect daily on material covered in class lectures, discussions, videos, and readings and write a three-page summary for following sections of class:
  1. Early influences/the birth of Hip Hop
  2. Graffiti and going GOLD
  3. The Golden Gangsta
  4. Pop/Underground/Knowledge

The purpose of these summaries is to **demonstrate comprehension** of ideas, important people, innovations, and events and an **ability to organize** the ideas in written form. The writing will not only offer a summary of the ideas covered but will include **personal reflections** on the information presented. This is your chance to make connections to the material either within your own life, or to the larger art-world in general. **Papers will be submitted through Canvas by 7:00PM each day.**

- **Movement experiences:** Each student is expected to fully participate on movement experiences. These will be fun if you commit to trying your best with an open mind. Guest teachers will be present, and I expect them to be treated with the utmost respect. LOCATION FOR MOVEMENT EXPERIENCES TBD\*

**We will dance Mon-Friday.** Students are encouraged to wear clothing that permits movement (shorts/sweats, t-shirts, sneakers). Bring water and wear *clean* shoes.

- **Element Identity: (MANIFESTO AND SAMPLE)** Each student will think about an idea or topic they care deeply about and create an art project on that topic using hip hop forms. The topic can be ANYTHING, the mode of expression can be turntablism, beat making, spoken language, movement derivatives, visual art or style or other if cleared by the instructor.

You will write a manifesto, of sorts, about what this topic means to you and why it is important. Then create a small sample the manifesto in action. *(For example, use spoken word/rapping and write a few verses. If you wanted to design clothing look/style, turn in sketches of the ideas. Or choreograph hip hop moves and turn in video. Or create a few phrases of beats and samples and turn an audio file).*

**The manifesto will be turned in on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of class and the sample will be due the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> day of class.**

- **Final:** There will be one comprehensive final in class the last day of class. This will consist of short and long answer, and matching questions.

## Course Policies

### Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, must be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit assignments via email.

### Late Assignments

No late assignments accepted unless under extreme circumstances.

### Grading

- **Evaluation/Possible Points**

Participation, engagement (20% of grade) ..... 50 points

In-class writings/ quizzes (15% of grade) ..... 10 points each

Summary Writings (30% of grade) ..... 4 x 20 points each

Element Identity (20% of grade) ..... 50 points (25 manifesto/ 25 sample)

Final (15% of grade) ..... 50 points

#### *University of Utah grading scale*

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Scoring</b>
A	100% - 94%
A-	93.9% - 90%
B+	89.9%–87%
B	86.9%–84%
B-	83.9% - 80%
C+	79.9%–77%
C	76.9%–74%
C-	73.9% - 70%
D+	69.9%–67%
D	66.9%–64%
D-	63.9% - 60%
E	59.9%–0%

## **Masks (TDB)**

University leadership has urged all faculty, students, and staff to model the vaccination, testing, and masking behaviors we want to see in our campus community.

Students are strongly urged to mask during class. The professor will be masked at all times. We will be in doors for many hours at a time and wearing a mask, even if vaccinated will help protect us all.

- While masks are no longer required outside of Health Sciences facilities, UTA buses and campus shuttles, CDC guidelines now call for everyone to wear face masks indoors.
  - o Check the CDC website periodically for masking updates—  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
  - o Treat masks like seasonal clothing (i.e. during community surges in COVID transmission, masks are strongly encouraged indoors and in close groups outside).

## **Accommodations**

*Disclaimer: Accommodations will be considered on an individual basis and may require documentation.*

Please contact your instructor and/or teaching assistant as soon as possible (preferably shortly before the semester begins) to request accommodations of any kind.

**Content Warnings:** *Please be aware that some materials and discussions within this course may contain challenging content. Your instructor may choose to notify students of potentially difficult content (e.g. explicit language, graphic images, violent themes, etc.) throughout the course.*

If there are specific subjects that you need advanced notice for, please **contact your instructor before class begins.**

**Extreme personal circumstances:** Please **contact your instructor as soon as possible** if an extreme personal circumstance (hospitalization, death of a close relative, natural disaster, etc.) is interfering with your ability to complete your work.

**Religious Practice:** To request an accommodation for religious practices, **contact your instructor at the beginning of the semester.**

**Active Duty Military:** If you are student on active duty with the military and experience issues that prevent you from participating in the course **because of deployment or service responsibilities, contact your instructor as soon as possible** to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**Disability Access:** All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services (CDS). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

If you will need accommodations in this class, contact:

**Center for Disability Services** [disability.utah.edu](http://disability.utah.edu)

801-581-5020

162 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

## Changes to the Syllabus

**This syllabus is not a contract.** It is meant to serve as an outline and guide for your course. Please note that your instructor may modify it to accommodate the needs of your class.

### University Policies

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
2. ***University Safety Statement.*** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).
3. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
4. ***COVID-19 Campus Guidelines.*** Students are required to self-report if they test positive for COVID-19. To report, please contact:  
**COVID-19 Central @ The U**  
801-213-2874  
[coronavirus.utah.edu](http://coronavirus.utah.edu)

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus, **face coverings are required in all in-person classes for both students and faculty.**

Based on CDC guidelines, the University requires everyone to wear face coverings in shared public spaces on campus. **If you repeatedly fail to wear a face covering in class, you may be referred to the Dean of Students for a possible violation of the Student Code.**

**Some courses may require attendance due to hands-on coursework.** Please read the syllabus and attendance requirements for the course thoroughly.

**Some students may qualify for accommodations & exemptions from these guidelines through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** Accommodations should be obtained prior to the first day of class.

If you believe you meet these criteria, contact:

**Center for Disability & Access**

801-581-5020  
disability.utah.edu  
162 Union Building  
200 S. Central Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

- 5. *Wellness Statement.*** Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns like stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, or cross-cultural differences can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah.

Please feel welcome to reach out to your instructor or TA's to handle issues regarding your coursework. For helpful resources to manage your personal wellness and counseling options, contact:

**Center for Student Wellness**

801-581-7776  
[wellness.utah.edu](http://wellness.utah.edu)  
2100 Eccles Student Life Center  
1836 Student Life Way  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

**Women's Resource Center**

801-581-8030  
[womenscenter.utah.edu](http://womenscenter.utah.edu)  
411 Union Building  
200 S. Central Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112