

Spring 2021 - Mar 15, 2021 - May 02, 2021
The Roots of Latina/o Hip Hop
CHIC 3345 – 001 CRN 25687 Syllabus
3 credits

100% Online

The University of Texas at El Paso
Chicano Studies Program
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Course Instructor: Elvira Carrizal-Dukes, Ph.D., M.F.A.

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays Noon – 1:30 p.m. (MST)

Blackboard Collaborate

E-mail: Contact me only through Blackboard Course Messages

If you prefer to speak with me by telephone, contact me through Blackboard Course Messages to set up a telephone appointment.

Content Introduction

The Roots of Latinx¹ Hip Hop is designed to engage students in the aural, visual, social, and political history of Latinx Hip Hop and its intersection with African American music and art. This course provides students with an overview of Latinx Hip Hop history. Students will learn to analyze and critique music, lyrics, aesthetics, genres, musician biographies and events studied in the course.

Course Objective

The Roots of Latinx Hip Hop is designed to assist you in learning the history, aesthetics, and motifs of Latinx Hip Hop through lectures, readings, screenings/listening to music, discussions and assignments. This class provides opportunities for you to develop your personal vision and expression.

Course Description

This course examines the musical, social, political, cultural, and economic conditions that brought about urban youth culture in the late 1970s in the Bronx. Special focus will be placed on the multicultural aspect of the birth of hip-hop, wherein youth forge an alternative culture based on the collected awareness of the plight of the urban non-White working class in America. Chicanx rappers will

¹ Latinx spelled with the “x” at the end is gender neutral and represents Latina, Latino, and Latinx people. Also used for Chicanx to be gender neutral and to represent Chicana, Chicano, and Chicanx.

be examined in light of a 500-year history of Hispanics in the New World, the development of clashing musical cultures between the elite and the masses in California from 1850 to the 1960s, the development of music in Los Angeles from its founding in 1769 to the present, and historical issues of Mexican American communities.

Course rationale

This course is part of the interdisciplinary major in Chicano Studies (30 semester hours of core courses) and of the minor (18 hours): Social Science Option, Humanities Option, Fine Arts Option, and Interdisciplinary Option.

Prerequisites: None

Learning Outcomes:

At the successful completion of this course, you will understand:

- the functions of Latinx Hip Hop music within its own society.
- the function of Latinx Hip Hop within American society in general.
- the cross-influence between Latinx and African American music.
- the social, historical, political, and cultural inheritances and imperatives of the Latinx Hip Hop genre.

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- critique rap lyrics by being able to identify characteristics such as irony, tone, and point of view; and to analyze lyrics for plot, motif, character development and metaphor.
- develop a critical social consciousness through the lessons learned in the music, lyrics, musician biographies and events studied in the course.
- speculate and discuss the future of hip hop and its connection to the future of race relations in America and America's future in general.
- appreciate stylistic and aesthetic traits and features of a myriad of hip-hop genres and styles and associate them with cultural and social phenomenon.
- put the history of American popular music, and especially rap music, into the context of a people's history of America and view rap music as a venue for the conflict and resolution of issues relating to racial strife in America.
- see similarities between the events and legacies of African American and Mexican American history and their own experiences as members of a subgroup.
- demonstrate an understanding of the technical and interpretive qualities of hip-hop music and other components of hip hop such as graffiti and street art, fashion, dance, and DJing.
- appreciate the efforts of African Americans in building an amazing culture in Colonial America and the Antebellum South as a means of resistance and survival by understanding the travesty and tragedy of slavery.

- interpret Chicana rap lyrics within the context of the Mexican American's struggle for justice, equality, land, wages and vindication from racial stereotypes.
- critique the music, aesthetics and lyrics of Latina and Chicana rap music from multiple perspectives — art, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, politics and economics.
- listen to rap music (as well as its predecessors) and discern innovation, assimilation, meaning and influence.

Important dates

Spring 2021 – Term 702

March 15th - Classes begin

May 2nd – End date

April 23rd - Last day to withdraw with a “W”

April 30th – Final Exam

May 5th - Final date to post grades

By 11:00 A.M. MT

Course Policies and Procedures

Blackboard

This course is 100% online. We will never meet face to face. Therefore, you must familiarize yourself with Blackboard. Assignment and schedule details as well as assignment grading can be found on Blackboard. If you need a hard copy of this syllabus, print it. Uploading and downloading assignments, syllabus and readings will be on **Blackboard**.

How to Login to Blackboard

Blackboard is tied to my.utep.edu. If you are properly registered for the class, you are enrolled in Blackboard as well. Go to: <https://my.utep.edu>

Log in with your UTEP (University of Texas at El Paso) username and password. If you have trouble, email me as soon as possible. Blackboard Student Services supplies 24/7 help desk and technical support to faculty and students in online courses.

Contacting Blackboard Student Services 24/7 Support
Toll free 1-877-382-0491

*** IMPORTANT: You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard often to make sure you do not miss any important announcements, which will also be sent to your UTEP email address.

Required Materials

- Access to computer and internet.

- All readings and videos are posted on the Blackboard site found in the Learning Module for any week.
- A UTEP e-mail account.
Go to <http://getmail.utep.edu>
You may also call the HELP desk at (915) 747-4357 (on campus) or (915) 747-5257 (off-campus).

Required Software

You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course. If you are using a lab on campus, they already have the necessary software. All the needed programs are free downloads and can be downloaded from the URLs I have supplied here and on Blackboard, which are found in the Getting Started tab.

- **Adobe Acrobat Reader:** You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on the icon on the left side of the screen which says “Get Adobe Reader. Follow instructions to install the reader.
- **Macromedia Flash Player:** You can get the player by going to <http://www.macromedia.com> and then clicking on “Download Flash Player.” Follow instructions to install the player.
- **Apple QuickTime Player:** You can get this player by going to <http://www.apple.com> Once there, click on the “QuickTime” tab on the top of the page and then click on “QuickTime Player FREE premier multimedia player,” and follow instructions.
- **Office 365** is available to UTEP students, which includes applications such as Word and PowerPoint at my.utep.edu under Technology click on OneDrive for Business.

Blackboard Course Messages

You may send me a course message through Blackboard any time

1. Click on **Messages to/from Instructor** area in the **Control Panel** then click **Create Message**.
2. Click on **To:** then Select my name: Elvira Carrizal-Dukes (Instructor)
3. Type in a **Subject** and **Message** (I will respond to you within 24 hours.)
4. Click **Submit**.

Note: I will be checking Blackboard and my email regularly Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (MST). I may not check email or Blackboard on Saturdays or Sundays.

Grading policy and evaluation procedures:

Credit hours: 3

- Grading scale: SEE BELOW
- Requirements and assignments: SEE BELOW
- Standards and proportions used: SEE BELOW

GRADUATE CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE: In order to obtain graduate credit for this course, you must satisfactorily complete a graduate level project with a topic and parameters approved beforehand by the course instructor.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This online course requires online participation. Individual projects will present a few creative problems. The originality with which you solve these problems and take part in this collective online learning experience will also be a factor in your grade. It is your responsibility to learn and improve each day. Additionally, it is your responsibility to help others in online discussion forums to learn and improve.

Please note absolutely no grades of “I” (incomplete) will be given. Your final grade will be based on work completed during the semester, unless plagiarism is an issue with work given and evaluation is pending from the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Class Attendance

<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=54418>

The student is expected to keep a consistent online presence for this online course. The student is expected to take part in all course discussions and activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When the student does not turn in more than 3 assignments, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.

Class Requirements:

To pass this course, you must:

1. complete all assignments.
2. maintain satisfactory attendance as described above.
3. participate actively in forums and critiques.
4. upload all assignments to Blackboard on time.

Assignment Procedures

Grading rubrics will be provided on Blackboard for assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to read them in their entirety. They will supply details on how assignments should be turned in and how they will be graded. **All assignments must be turned in through Blackboard (see course calendar for specific deadline dates).**

Deadline Policy

Deadline for most assignments is 11:00 PM (MST) on the due date; CHECK COURSE CALENDAR for all due dates and deadlines as late submissions will not be graded. Please ensure that you carefully read all instructions. Reading the instructions is your responsibility and you should not assume due dates or times.

Work can be turned in before the deadline time/date.

Readings

There will be multiple readings on a weekly basis. They will be available on Blackboard in PDF format. I included ISBN's for the textbooks in the Course Calendar. You are not required to purchase the books. I provide PDF files of selected readings. The ISBN is included for your reference.

Reading Quizzes / Group Quizzes

Reading quizzes and Group quizzes will be based on readings, videos, music and artists and will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or short essay. It may be a combination of all three and is intended to assess your ability to have an understanding of course materials.

Groups for Group Quizzes will be assigned. A reading/page numbers will be assigned to each group. You will be given specific instructions for completing the group quiz. The assignment rubric will be available on Blackboard. In addition, (1) response to a group member is due by the following Wednesday.

Essay

You will submit (1) essay with critical analysis in response to the readings and music lyrics. You will need to do the readings, view the films and videos, listen to the music, and go over the lecture notes to be effective in your responses. I will give you an essay question for the analysis.

Upload Instructions

Upload essay as either a **DOC** or **PDF** file. If your assignment file is not in one of these formats, you may receive zero points on your assignment. It is the student's responsibility to confirm that their assignment files and video links function.

Name the file as follows: your last name_essay(no spaces)_date(mmddyy)

example: lopez_essay_041621

Individual Presentation

You will be assigned a musician(s)/topic to research and present on. Your visual presentation must include sound/videos and images. You may use any software available to you such as Sway or PowerPoint, however, the presentation must be posted as a hyperlink.

For your presentation, give us a brief introduction of your subject, what they are known for, play a sample of their music, show images, and share some personal information about the artist (hometown, age, politics, net worth, e.g.) Discuss any artistic, social, and/or political influences that may have impacted the artist's music. You may use course readings and material for your references, as well as

any other sources not provided in this course.

In addition, submit (2) Peer Responses to at least (2) presentations with 1 or zero responses by the following Wednesday.

Final Project and Peer Reviews

The FINAL project requires you to pick (1) of these assignments to submit as your Final Project:

- Write original lyrics for a full-length Latina/o/x hip hop song (template provided).
- Film a short video documentary between 3-5 minutes that features an interview with a Latinx hip hop artist. (Interviews may be done virtually through Zoom for example.)
- Design a 2-page magazine layout that features Latinx hip hop and/or an artist(s) in at least 800 words of text, at least 2 photos with citations, and a reference list.

Grading Rubrics with descriptions and specific instructions for each component will be provided on Blackboard. In addition, submit (2) Peer Responses to at least (2) presentations with 1 or zero responses.

Grades

Your final grade will reflect the instructor's evaluation of

1. the consistency of your effort and dedication to the learning process.
2. your contributions to course discussions and critiques.
3. your ongoing presence in course discussions and critiques.
4. your active participation in the learning process.
5. the quality of and approach to your work on all assignments.
6. how well assignments identify and incorporate the elements of Latinx hip hop.

While Blackboard will give you a ballpark score, the final grade is given by the instructor and reflects some of the non-tangible items listed above.

Letter grade scale

100 – 90 points = A
 89 – 80 points = B
 79 – 70 points = C
 69 – 60 points = D
 59 – 0 points = F

Assignment Category Percentages Roots of Latina/o Hip Hop

Reading Quizzes 20%

- Reading Quiz 1 (10 points)
- Reading Quiz 2 (10 points)

Group Quizzes 30%

- Group Quiz 1 (10 points)
- Group Quiz 2 (10 points)
- Group Quiz 3 (10 points)

Essay 15%

- Essay (15 points)

Final Exam 35%

- Individual Presentation (10 points)
- Final Project Proposal (5 points)
- Final Project (10 points)
- (2) Peer Reviews (10 points)

Modules

The Roots of Latina/o Hip Hop is set up in modules with new content, discussions, and major assignments. The modular structure is meant to "package" the week(s) so that students know exactly what is expected for that time period. Weekly Modules will be posted by Sunday.

Course Calendar

Note: I included ISBN's for the textbooks. You are not required to purchase the books. I provide PDF files of selected readings. The ISBN is included for your reference.

Week 1: March 15 – March 20

The Roots and Evolution of Hip Hop: Social-Political and Cultural Contexts

Readings:

- Orejuela (2015). *Rap and hip-hop culture*, Ch. 1. ISBN-13: 978-0199987733
- Hess (2009). *Hip hop in America: A regional guide*, Timeline of American Regional Hip Hop. ISBN-13: 9780313343216
- Chang (2007). *Can't Stop Won't Stop: A history of the hip-hop generation*, p. 10-19, 45-65, 67-85, 185-186. ISBN-13: 978-0312425791
- latinopia.com (2010). *Latino History Timeline 1970-1976*.
- Los Angeles Times (2020). *The Chicano Moratorium - 50 years later*.

Watch/Listen: Charlie Chase, Rock Steady Crew, Mellow Man Ace, Kid Frost, DJ Kool Herc, The Ghetto Brothers, Karate Charlie, The Real Roxanne, Kool Moe Dee, Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five, Afrika Bambaataa; **Optional:** Netflix links for Hip-Hop Evolution.

Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 1 due no later than Saturday

Week 2: March 21 – March 27
Revolution, DJing, Graffiti, Dance, Clothing, Art

Readings:

- Katz (2012). *Groove Music: The Art and Culture of the Hip-Hop DJ*, Ch. 2, 5, & 6. ISBN-13: 978-0195331127
- Chang (2006). *Total Chaos: The Art and Aesthetics of Hip-Hop*, Ch. 6. ISBN-13: 978-0465009091

Watch/Listen: Gil Scott Heron, Public Enemy, DJ Muggs; VIDEO

DOCUMENTARY: Style Wars;

Assignment:

- Group Quiz 1 due no later than Saturday; (1) response to a group member is due by the following Wednesday.

Week 3: March 28 – April 3
Poetry, Lyrics, Narrative; Griots and Rappers;

Readings:

- Pate (2009). *In the Heart of the Beat: The Poetry of Rap*, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. ISBN-13: 9780810861459
- Dyson (2007). *Know What I Mean?: Reflections on Hip Hop*, Track 4 & Outro. ISBN-13: 9780465017164
- **Optional:** Banks (2011). *Digital Griots*, l. – p. 34; ISBN-13: 978-0809330201

Watch/Listen: Cypress Hill, Funkdoobiest, Lighter Shade of Brown; Kendrick Lamar, Jay-Z;

Assignment:

- Reading Quiz 2 due no later than Saturday
- Essay due by Saturday

Week 4: April 4 – April 10
Violence, Machismo, Sexism, and Homophobia; Conscious Hip Hop;

Readings:

- McFarland (2008). *Chicano Rap*, Ch. 1, 2, 5, 6, & 7. ISBN-13: 9780292718029
- Dyson (2006). *Know What I Mean?: Reflections on Hip Hop*, Track 1, 3, 4, & Outro. ISBN-13: 9780465017164

Watch/Listen: South Park Mexican, 2 Live Crew, N.W.A.

Assignment:

- Group Quiz 2 due no later than Saturday; (1) response to a group member is due by the following Wednesday.
- Individual presentation due by Saturday; (2) Peer Responses to at least (2) presentations with 1 or zero responses by the following Wednesday.

Week 5: April 11 – April 17
Women in Hip Hop

Readings:

- Perkins (1996). *Droppin'science: Critical essays on rap music and hip hop culture*, Ch. 2. ISBN-13: 9781566393621
- Neal (2004). *That's the joint!: The hip-hop studies reader*. Ch. 26, 27, & 28. ISBN-13: 9780415969192

Watch/Listen: Missy Elliott, Snow Tha Product, Mariah, and Billboard “10 Latin Artists to Watch.”

Assignment:

- Group Quiz 3 due no later than Saturday; (1) response to a group member is due by the following Wednesday.
- Final Project Proposal due by Saturday

Week 6: April 18 – April 24
Indigenous Hip Hop, Japanese Hip Hop

Reading:

- Mays (2018). *Hip hop beats, indigenous rhymes: Modernity and hip hop in indigenous North America*. Introduction, Ch. 2, 4, & Conclusion. ISBN-13: 9781438469478
- Condry (2001). *Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture*.
- Articles on Japoneros;
- Flores (2000). *From Bomba to Hip-hop: Puerto Rican Culture and Latino Identity*. Prelude, Introduction, Ch. 6 & 9. ISBN-13: 9780231110778

Watch/Listen: Supaman, Taboo, Kohh, Japoneros

Assignment:

- Work on Final Project

Week 7 and Finals Week: April 25 – May 2
Rap, Reggaeton, Final Project

Reading:

- Rivera (2015). *Remixing Reggaetón*. Introduction and Conclusion. ISBN-13: 9780822375258
- Articles on Reggaetón.

Watch/Listen: Calle 13

Assignment:

- Final Project due no later than Wednesday, April 28, 2021.
- (2) Peer Reviews due no later than Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Additional Comments/Notices

Disclaimer Statement

This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes.

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to The Center for Accommodations and Support Services located at Union Building East Room 106 by phone (915) 747-5148 or email cass@utep.edu. If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of The Center for Accommodations and Support Services.

The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment through the UWC's website (uwc.utep.edu). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. Visit the UWC's website to learn more about the services they provide or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP). It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or

providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please consult the Handbook of Operating Procedures at <http://hoop.utep.edu> for the complete University policy on academic dishonesty. You may also consult with the Assistant Dean of Students at the Student Union Building West, Room 102, or by calling (915) 747-5648.

Student Agreements

Student agrees to treat fellow students, UTEP faculty and staff, with respect and collaborate with all group members in a professional manner.

Student understands that copyright laws protect the materials used in this class. Student will refrain from any public or private distribution of all materials provided and/or created in this course.

Student understands that any superimposed copyright on materials may not be “letterboxed” or covered over in any way. Student will not upload any course materials to Internet sites, whether public or private, such as YouTube, Facebook, or any other Web Publishing System. Student will not exhibit any of the materials provided and student work created in this course and shared on Blackboard in any public venue without express and written permission of the copyright holder.

Student responsibility

Student is responsible for seeing that all your equipment and software are up to date or that you get yourself to a lab, library, etc. where you can meet the requirements of the class. Please always follow COVID19 campus safety rules.

Blackboard works best with Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari. Stay away from Internet Explorer. For some reason Blackboard does not communicate well with Internet Explorer so avoid it. Additionally, it is especially important that your Adobe Reader and Java software be up to date. All your readings, lectures, and assignment sheets are (.pdf) files and require the latest version of Adobe Reader.

It is especially important that you follow directions carefully. You must turn in your work correctly. If you do not properly turn in your work, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Here is an example of improperly turning in work: Student opens assignment link, copies/pastes their critical response then does not click the submit button. They then move into another part of Blackboard and the

assignment is never sent. Simple human error, but please be sure to double-check that your work is turned in correctly.

You must check Blackboard for announcements and course messages. Announcements also get sent to your UTEP email address. If you do not check Blackboard and you miss an important announcement or email your grade may be deducted points for being absent from this 100% online course.

You are provided with a course calendar that clearly defines all due dates and deadlines. Online learning is independent learning and you must be responsible enough to turn in all work on time. I will not accept late work. Please communicate with me about any absences.

The only time that I will accept a late quiz or assignment is if the Blackboard System goes down or other extreme circumstances. Please communicate with me to let me know if this is the case.

Your work schedule, military deployment, athletic events, travel, vacations, sick children, broken computer, lack of access to internet, employment at UTEP, etc. are not valid excuses for missing any work in this class. If you are unable to submit an assignment you will need to communicate with me as soon as possible.

You will be penalized for poor writing skills. If your work is riddled with spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors you will lose a considerable number of points for that assignment. This could be the difference between a passing and failing grade, so I strongly suggest that you use the spell check available to you.