The Socio-Theological Discourses of Hip Hop Culture

Daniel White Hodge PhD
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Fall 2012
YM 3910 –CEDF 6310
4 Credits

COURSE INSTRUCTION PLAN

YM 3910 | CEDF 6310 **Professor:** **Daniel White Hodge PhD**
Fall 2012 **Thursday** **6:30-9:50 pm**
Office Hours: **T/11-12:30pm/ F 11:30-1pm (or by appointment)**
Office location: **5047 N. Spaulding 1st Floor**
Class Location: **Nyvall Hall, Room N1**
E-mail: **dwhodge@northpark.edu**
Phone: 773.244.5211

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course explores the dynamics, cultural variances, theological discourses, and applicational methods of Hip Hop spirituality in relationship to adolescent culture. This class introduces students to the issues, culture, and dimensions surrounding Hip Hop spirituality. Close attention will be paid to a theology of Hip Hop and its culture. Through discussion, historical contexts, sociocultural analysis, urban theory/ literature, film, and Black Liberation Theology a cultural overview of Hip Hop will be drawn to better understand how adolescents and early adults engage in this forty year culture and musical genre; we will also be engaging in the ten foundational elements of Hip Hop culture: DJing/ Turntablism, Breaking, Graffiti art, Break Beats, Emceeing, Street Knowledge, Street Language, Street Fashion, Entrepreneurialism, and Knowledge of God and Self.

This course introduces students to the challenges and issues involved in Hip Hop studies as it relates to youth ministry, youth culture, and popular culture discourse. Close attention will be paid to various methods of intercultural engagement, the media's response and understanding of Hip Hop, our own understanding of race/ ethnicity in relation to Hip Hop studies (which will include but not be limited to African American, Asian, Latino/a, Middle Eastern, & Euro American), youth ministry in the Hip Hop context, and ministry strategies in order to disciple or serve youth who live a Hip Hop ethos. The student will be challenged to become culturally aware and sensitive in their engagement with the past, present and future of Hip Hop. The student will also be able to interpret and analyze the reality of what Hip Hop was, is, and will be. And, the student will be equipped to be cultural ambassadors in their respective communities. Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Analyze individual and culturally diverse approaches to Hip Hop culture*{You will accomplish this by attending class, viewing films, & participating in class activities}*

2. Articulate the ways Hip Hop espouses various theological mantras. *{You will accomplish this by doing the reading response papers, and final paper/ project.}*
3. Articulate the relationship between Christ and culture set against a grid of Hip Hop, urban popular culture, and current youth culture patterns. *{You will do this in group discussions, reading response papers, & in the final paper/ project}*
4. Identify obstacles to current Hip Hop culture and youth ministry strategies *{You will do this by viewing the films & the group project}*
5. Articulate a Biblically informed model for understanding, relating to and serving youth involved in Hip Hop culture *{ You will accomplish this in the group project, & in the final project}*

REQUIRED TEXTS & VIEWING

Textbooks for YM 3910 (undergrad)

Forman, Murray, and Mark Anthony Neal. 2011. *That's The Joint! The Hip Hop Studies Reader*. 2 ed. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-87326-0 (**2nd Edition is needed**)

Hodge, Daniel White. 2010. *The Soul Of Hip Hop: Rimbs Timbs & A Cultural Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Inner Varsity Press. ISBN: 9780830837328

Smith, Efrem, and Phil Jackson. 2005. *The Hip Hop Church: Connecting with The Movment Shaping our Culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP.ISBN-10: 0830833293 ISBN-13: 978-0830833290

Utley, Ebony A. 2012. *Rap And Religion: Understanding The Gangsta's God*. Santa Barbara, CA; Denver CO.: Praeger. ISBN: 978-0-313-37668-9

Textbooks for CEDF 6310 (graduate/ seminary)

Forman, Murray, and Mark Anthony Neal. 2011. *That's The Joint! The Hip Hop Studies Reader*. 2 ed. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-87326-0:

Hodge, Daniel White. 2010. *The Soul Of Hip Hop: Rimbs Timbs & A Cultural Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Inner Varsity Press. ISBN: 9780830837328

Pinn, Anthony. 2003. *Noise and Spirit: The Religious and Spiritual Sensibilities of Rap Music*. New York: New York University Press.ISBN-10: 0814766994 ISBN-13: 978-0814766996

Smith, Efrem, and Phil Jackson. 2005. *The Hip Hop Church: Connecting with The Movment Shaping our Culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP.ISBN-10: 0830833293 ISBN-13: 978-0830833290

Utley, Ebony A. 2012. *Rap And Religion: Understanding The Gangsta's God*. Santa Barbara, CA; Denver CO.: Praeger. ISBN: 978-0-313-37668-9

Watkins, Ralph Basui. 2011. *Hip-Hop Redemption: Finding God in the Rhythm and the Rhyme*, *Engaging Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. ISBN: 9780801033117

FILMS: *Hustle & Flow* (2005), *8-Mile* (2002), *Rize* (2005), *Juice* (1992), *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes* (2006)

GRADING & ASSINGMENTS

At the end of the semester, you will earn a letter grade based on the following percentages:

Undergraduate

Attendance & Participation in Discussion / Exercises	15 sessions; total of 20%
Reading Response Papers 1, 2, 3	20 % (7%, 7%, & 6%)
Lecture series attendance	5%
Group Project	15%
Final Project/ Paper	40 %
	Total (100%)

Lecture series Dates: Mon Oct. 8, 7-9pm | Mon Nov.12, 7-9pm | Mon Nov.19, 6-9pm

Graduate/ Seminary

Attendance & Participation in Discussion / Exercises	15 sessions; total of 20%
Reading Response Papers 1, 2, 3	20 % (7%, 7%, & 6%)
Lecture series attendance	5%
Lecture series reflection	5% x 2 (2.5% each)
Group Project	20%
Final Project/ Paper	30%
	Total (100%)

NOTE:

Letter grades will be based on the following percentage of points earned:

A	**95-100%**	**C+**	**77-79%**
A-	**90-94%**	**C**	**74-76%**
B+	**87-89%**	**C-**	**70-73%**
B	**84-86%**	**D+**	**65-69%**
B-	**80-83%**	**D**	**60-64%**

COURSE POLICIES

1. It is each student's responsibility **TO READ THE SYLLABUS THOROUGHLY** and check it often for deadlines and guidelines. Do not begin an assignment without checking the syllabus.
2. Written assignments are due on the **day** assigned. Because of the nature of this course, **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED** unless there are extreme circumstances (death, severe illness). If you miss an assignment, you will need to prepare for the next one. Please respect this guideline and do not ask for extensions.
3. **You are given 1 absence.** After which, you will begin to lose a percentage of your attendance grade.
4. **Being late to class is a problem.** If you are a couple of minutes late, no problem. However, if you are 5 minutes or over late, or a pattern of lateness occurs, then you will lose 5% of your overall attendance grade.
5. **NO PAPERS WILL BE EMAILED!** No exceptions, please, do not ask! This is to save both you and me a lot of time and energy. If there are extreme circumstances (i.e. death in the family, extreme illness) then we can negotiate, however simply running out of ink, broken computers, printers not working, not having a computer, dog eating laptop, or simply not wanting to do the assignment will NOT count as "extreme circumstances."
6. **Laptops, PDA's, iPods, & Cell phones are to be used at a MINIMUM.** We are in a learning community and if you are on Facebook and someone is behind you, the chances of you being a distraction to the rest of the class are high. Moreover, texting, emailing, and phone calls ARE NOT ALLOWED in the class. If caught, I will issue a warning, a second offense will cost you 5% of your attendance grade, a third offense and you will lose a letter grade, and subsequent offenses will result in you being dropped from the course. Please respect this policy.
7. All assignments and papers must be typed and proofread for errors. Spelling, grammatical and syntactical errors will result in a reduction in your grade. All papers MUST BE STAPLED! If you try to slip in a paper with no staples or with a paper clip, it WILL RECEIVE a 0.
8. Though I do not foresee any changes, students ***are*** responsible for adapting to any announcements in class concerning changes in due dates, examinations, assignments, and schedules.
9. An integral part of class participation is a demonstrated attitude of respect for one another and the subject matter we are studying. Preparation for the class must be done before class. A seriousness of purpose is expected even though we are informal in our classroom interaction. Students who consistently engage in side talking may be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period and it will count towards an absence.
10. You need to log onto Moodle and check it at least once a week: http://northpark.mrooms3.net/course/view.php?id=2873

Makeup Work: Make up work will not be accepted unless a valid excuse is presented (for example, illness, death in the family, or an issue that we have previously discussed). I require that you provide ***proof of absence*** (for example, a doctor's note). If you must miss a discussion; be sure to check with me or a classmate to find out what you missed (we may stray a bit from the tentative course outline). Also, be sure to get notes from a classmate. Also, all of my lectures will be available through our Moodle Website.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is academic theft and is unacceptable. It is also grounds for failure or even academic dismissal. Plagiarism is ***not just*** copying words straight from the encyclopedia, journal article, or book. Plagiarism can take many forms:

- Having someone else write your paper for you.
- Getting too much help on a paper.
- Copying someone else's words, syntax, or phrasing.
- Passing of another person (a published author, your roommate, an actor on TV [a Christian speaker or another youth pastor] – any other person's) thoughts or ideas as your own.
- Failing to document the source – not only of words taken *verbatim* from another source – bout also of another person's thoughts and ideas.
- Failing to document *your own* work that you used for another assignment.
- Turning in an assignment that you wrote for another class.

Plagiarism is most likely to occur when you do not understand the assignment, do not understand research methodology, or do not have an argument of your own. If that is the case – do NOT risk your academic career or your own ethics or credibility by plagiarizing or handing in less than honest work. Instead, **come see me**. Tell me what your difficulty is with. I can help you. That is my job.

"The rhetorical constraints of plagiarism are that once I suspect you have dishonestly borrowed the words, ideas, or work of someone else, I become suspicious of **everything** you write. You jeopardize your credibility so that even when you are not plagiarizing, I doubt your work – which is reflected in your grade."
From the North Park University English Department and especially, Lisa Wallace.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Center for Academic Services at 773-244-5737, advising@northpark.edu or stop by the office located on the 2nd floor of the Student Services Building. Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. If needed, appointments can be relocated. For further information please review the following website: http://www.northpark.edu/ada

COURSE SCHEDULE
UNDERGRAD LISTING
NOTE: All reading assignments/ films are to be done PRIOR to class, on the date due, unless otherwise noted.

Class Session	Topic	Weekly Reading Assignments	Assignments Due
WEEK 1: Thurs Aug 30	Class Introduction & Scope of Hip Hop Culture	**None**	
Week 2 Thurs Sept 6	The Message: What is this Hip in Hip Hop? Cultural contexts	• **Forman Neal Ch.1,2,4, 41,& 6** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 1 &2** • **White Hodge Intro**	**Student info sheet**
WEEK 3: Thurs Sept 13	Ain't No love in the heart of the City: God & Tha City	• **Forman Neal Ch.11, 12, 17, 20** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 3-4** • **White Hodge Ch.1-2**	
Week 4 Thurs Sept 20	Communing with God in Hip Hop	• **Forman Neal Ch.29, 30, 32,34** • **Smith Jackson Ch.3-5** • **Utley Intro & Ch. 1** • **White Hodge Ch.4**	**RR #1**
Week 5 Thurs Sept 27	*NO CLASS Download Online Film* Social Construction of anger, resentment, & rap rage	• **Forman Neal Ch. 14, 15,19, 42**	*Download online film for credit, then answer forum questions & interact with classmates*
Week 6 Thurs Oct 4	God Talk & Spoken word	• **Forman Neal Ch. 35-37** • **Utley Ch. 2** • **Smith & Jackson Ch. 6**	***Moodle Forum to make up for class***

Class Session	Topic	Weekly Reading Assignments	Assignments Due
WEEK 7: Thurs Oct 11	The Hip Hop Jesuz	• **White Hodge Ch.5** • **Smith Jackson Ch.7** • **Utley Ch. 3 & 5**	
Week 8 Thurs Oct 18	Violence, Pain, & Suffering	• **Forman Neal Ch. 38,** • **White Hodge Ch.3**	
Week 9 Thurs Oct 25	Tupac, Youth Culture, Hip Hop, & Christology	• **White Hodge Ch.6** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 7**	**RR# 2**
WEEK 10: Thurs Nov 1	Gender & God: Queens, Queen B's, & Womanism	• **Forman Neal Ch. 22,23, 25-27**	
Week 11 Thurs Nov 8	The Illuminati, The Devil, & Rogue forms of Hip Hop religion	• **Utley Ch. 4** • **White Hodge Ch.7**	
Week 12 Thurs Nov 15	No Church in the Wild: Youth Ministry & Culture in Hip Hop Context	• **White Hodge Ch. 9 & Epilogue** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 9**	
WEEK 13 Thurs Nov 22	NO CLASS	**NO CLASS THANKSGIVING**	Eat like a mug!
Week 14 Thurs Nov 29	Toward a Theology & Missiology of Hip Hop Culture & Youth	• **Utley Ch. 6 & Conclusion** • **White Hodge Ch. 8** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 10 & Conclusion** • **Forman Neal Ch. 43**	**RR# 3**
Week 15: Thurs Dec 6	**Group Presentations**	**Group Presentations**	**Presentation**
Week 16 Thurs Dec 13	Final Class	**Final Work Due**	**Final Work due**

GRADUATE LISTING

Class Session	Topic	Weekly Reading Assignments	Assignments Due
WEEK 1: Thurs Aug 30	Class Introduction & Scope of Hip Hop Culture	**None**	
Week 2 Thurs Sept 6	The Message: What is this Hip in Hip Hop? Cultural contexts	• **Forman Neal Ch.1,2,4, 41,& 6** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 1 &2** • **White Hodge Intro** • **Watkins Intro & Ch. 1** • **Pinn Intro & Ch. 1**	**Student info sheet**
WEEK 3: Thurs Sept 13	Ain't No love in the heart of the City: God & Tha City	• **Forman Neal Ch.11, 12, 17, 20** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 3-4** • **White Hodge Ch.1-2** • **Pinn Ch. 2-3** • **Watkins Ch. 3** **FILM:** ***Juice***	
Week 4 Thurs Sept 20	Communing with God in Hip Hop	• **Forman Neal Ch.29, 30, 32,34** • **Smith Jackson Ch.3-5** • **Utley Intro & Ch. 1** • **Pinn Ch. 4** • **Watkins Ch. 6** • **White Hodge Ch.4**	**RR #1**
Week 5 Thurs Sept 27	*NO CLASS Download Online Film* Social Construction of anger, resentment, & rap rage	• **Forman Neal Ch. 14, 15,19, 42** • **Watkins Ch. 2 & 4**	*Download online film for credit, then answer forum questions & interact with classmates*

Class Session	Topic	Weekly Reading Assignments	Assignments Due
Week 6 Thurs Oct 4	God Talk & spoken word	• **Forman Neal Ch. 35-37** • **Utley Ch. 2** • **Smith & Jackson Ch. 6** • **Pinn Ch. 5** • **Watkins Ch. 5**	***Moodle Forum to make up for class***
WEEK 7: Thurs Oct 11	The Hip Hop Jesuz	• **White Hodge Ch.5** • **Smith Jackson Ch.7** • **Utley Ch. 3 & 5** **FILM:** ***8-Mile***	
Week 8 Thurs Oct 18	Violence, Pain, & Suffering	• **Forman Neal Ch. 38, 44** • **White Hodge Ch.3**	
Week 9 Thurs Oct 25	Tupac, Youth Culture, Hip Hop, & Christology	• **White Hodge Ch.6** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 7** • **Pinn Ch.8** **FILM:** ***Rize***	**RR# 2**
WEEK 10: Thurs Nov 1	Gender & God: Queens, Queen B's, & Womanism	• **Forman Neal Ch. 22,23, 25-27** • **Pinn Ch. 7** **FILM*: Beyond Beats & Rhymes*** **(In Class)**	
Week 11 Thurs Nov 8	The Illuminati, The Devil, & Rogue forms of Hip Hop religion	• **Utley Ch. 4** • **White Hodge Ch.7** • **Pinn Ch. 6**	
Week 12 Thurs Nov 15	No Church in the Wild: Youth Ministry & Culture in Hip Hop Context	• **White Hodge Ch. 9 & Epilogue** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 9** • **Watkins Ch. 7** • **Pinn Ch.9**	**DUE: Reflection papers on lecture series**

Class Session	Topic	Weekly Reading Assignments	Assignments Due
WEEK 13 Thurs Nov 22	NO CLASS	**NO CLASS THANKSGIVING**	Eat like a mug!
Week 14 Thurs Nov 29	Toward a Theology & Missiology of Hip Hop Culture & Youth	• **Utley Ch. 6 & Conclusion** • **White Hodge Ch. 8** • **Smith Jackson Ch. 10 & Conclusion** • **Forman Neal Ch. 43** • **Watkins Conclusion** **FILM:** ***Hustle & Flow***	**RR# 3**
Week 15: Thurs Dec 6	**Group Presentations**	**Group Presentations**	**Presentation**
Week 16 Thurs Dec 13	Final Class	**Final Work Due**	**Final Work due**