

## **Droppin' Science**

### **Introduction to Rap Music Research**

A&S 138.XXX

2 credit hours

Instructor – Leta Hendricks

Digital Reference Librarian/Human Ecology Librarian

Classroom TBA – Learning Commons Sullivant Room 260

Class Meeting – Fridays – 1:30-3:18 p.m.

Office Hours – Monday 2:00-4:00 p.m. and Wednesday – 8:00-10:00 a.m.

and by appointment

<http://library.osu.edu/sites/ehs/digital.htm>

[Hendricks.3@osu.edu](mailto:Hendricks.3@osu.edu)

## **SYLLABUS**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Droppin' Science** will instruct students on the use of modern innovative research methods and resources. The course focuses on how to find, identify, evaluate, and manage information. The theme of rap music research will encourage students to explore the subject matter and develop research skills for lifelong learning.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon the course's completion, students should:

1. Understand the value of library collections and services.
2. Understand the pros and cons of various information technologies.
3. Find, identify, and evaluate information resources.
4. Appreciate the lives and careers of significant rap artists.
5. Recognize the specific contributions of rap music to the world.

### **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

The following methods of instruction will be used:

1. Lectures
2. Discussions
3. Assigned readings
4. Library labs
5. Projects

## **READINGS**

### ●Textbooks

All All Music Guide to Hip-Hop readings (1 to 2 pages in length available online at AMG● All Music <http://www.allmusic.com/>  
Two copies of textbook available on Sullivant Library closed reserve.

Bogdanov, Vladimir  
All Music Guide to Hip-Hop : The Definitive Guide to Rap & Hip-Hop.  
San Francisco : Backbeat Books, 2003.

Stebbins, Leslie F.  
Student Guide to Research in the Digital Age :  
How to Locate and Evaluate Information Sources  
Westport, CN. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

Two copies of textbook available on Sullivant Library closed reserve.

### ●Handouts

Syllabus  
Digital Desk  
Don't Forget to Study  
MLA Style Guide  
OIT Services  
Oscar/OhioLINK User's Guide  
OSUL Guide to Resources and Services  
RefWorks

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Week One: Getting Hip-To-The-Hop.**

Introduction to Seminar.  
Introduction to Ohio State University Libraries.

Discussion: The Roots of Rap

### **Week Two: Rap 101.**

The development of rap music.  
Introduction to the research process.

Readings: AMG – Introduction to the Rap Book by John Bush  
Rap Music by John Floyd

Stebbins – Glossary

Discussion: Rap aesthetics

**Week Three: Disk, DAT, DOS.**

Mr. DJ.

Guidelines for evaluation.

- Readings: AMG – Turntablism by Nathan Bush  
Electro by Sean Cooper  
Electro by Alex Henderson
- Stebbins – Chapter 1. Research and Critical Evaluation Chapter 8.  
Citing Sources, Avoiding Plagiarism, and  
Organizing References
- Discussion: Rap technology

**Week Four: In Tha' House.**

Guest DJ Charles N

- Readings: AMG – Bass Music by Alex Henderson  
Hip-House by Alex Henderson

**Week Five: Givin' Props.**

Early rap styles.

Organization of research.

Review

- Readings: AMG – Old School Rap by Alex Henderson  
Pop-Rap by Alex Henderson  
Female Rap by Alex Henderson
- Stebbins – Chapter 8. Citing Sources, Avoiding Plagiarism, and  
Organizing References
- Discussion: Rap and gender

**Week Six: Buggin'.**

Controversial Rap styles.  
Introduction to databases.

- Readings:    AMG –       Gangsta Rap by Alex Henderson  
                              Political Rap by Alex Henderson  
                              White Rappers by Alex Henderson  
                              West Coast Rap by Alex Henderson
- Stebbins –   Appendix : Specialized Journal Article Databases :  
                                      Indexes and Full Text
- Discussion:                Rap and politics

**Week Seven: The 411.**

Alternative Rap.  
Overview of virtual libraries.

- Readings:    AMG –       Alternative Rap by Alex Henderson  
                              Rap-Metal by Alex Henderson  
                              Jazz-Rap by John Bush  
                              Hip-Hop Producers by Alex Henderson
- Stebbins –   Chapter 4. Primary Sources : Online Tools and  
                                      Digitalized Collections
- Discussion:                Rap music as a business

**Week Eight: Word.**

Global Rap.  
Wrap-up.

- Readings:    AMG –       Latin Rap by Alex Henderson  
                              European Rap by Alex Henderson
- Discussion:                The future of rap music

**Week Nine: Teach 'N' Preach.  
Project #1 Presentations**

**Week Ten: Teach 'N' Preach.  
Project #1 Presentations  
Project #2 Due**

**GRADING**

1. Class Attendance. Deductions. -5%
2. Class Discussions. 30%
3. Complete Project #1 based on readings, library sources, and lab work. 30%
4. Complete Project #2 assigned work on research topic. 40%

Grading : Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory (Satisfactory = 80%).  
Please check the Course Calendar within CARMEN (available from the course home page) for assignment due dates.

**Project #1**

The first project is an oral presentation profiling the life and career of a significant rap artist (or group).

The Project #1 will demonstrate your information management skills: you should aim to find the best resources on your subject.

The oral presentation must contain:

1. At least in fifteen minutes length.
2. Discussion on the research process
3. Oral report should include a written bibliography of at least five resources.
4. The citations should be in correct MLA citation format.
5. The sources chosen should be, overall, appropriate to the subject: relevant, timely, and authoritative.

## **Project #2**

The final project is an annotated bibliography due at the last class session. The bibliography must focus on a particular rap style (genre) or movement.

The bibliography will demonstrate your research skills: you should aim to find the best research on your topic. Any reader should be able to use your bibliography to become informed about your topic.

The bibliography must contain:

1. At least ten annotated citations.
2. At least two citations or more from discussed resources.
3. Each annotation should use evaluation criteria discussed in week two.
4. Citations should be in correct MLA citation format.
5. The sources chosen should be appropriate to the topic.

## **Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. As obligated by university rules (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487), the instructor will report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)).

## **Disability Services**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

LETA HENDRICKS 03/17/06