

African American Studies 98/198  
Tupac, The Evolution of Hip Hop, and How to Rap  
University of California, Berkeley  
Spring 2014

Facilitators: Kaila Love, Hani Zewail  
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Office Hours: TBA

Class Time: Monday 5-7p  
Location: TBA  
Sponsor: Na'ilah Nasir

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this course is to examine Tupac Shakur's life and legacy by tracing back the history of Hip Hop. In order to do this, we must examine African American history. Although this history is rich and expands much farther back than European contact, for the purposes of this class we will start with the African American experience in America and continually make connections on how this history is relevant to the hip hop lifestyle today. We will examine genres within hip hop, the difference between mainstream and underground, and who key players in the game are. Finally, we will examine the art of rap by discussing what bars are, how to count them, and what exactly makes a good rap. We will do close readings of lyrics to observe both the techniques used in crafting them as well as the meaning behind them. Students will take the combination of these activities to develop skills that will allow them to find what flow is right for them, and craft a 2 verse rap song.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Gain basic factual knowledge about Tupac Shakur, the culture of hip hop, and the Bay Area.
- Develop critical thinking skills through connecting concepts from the class to the real world
- Develop and practice leadership and decision making skills through group work
- Know the basic mechanics of rap (structure, bars, content, rhyme scheme)
- Gain greater self awareness and expression

**PREREQUISITES:**

- An open mind
- Willingness to try new things (like rapping)
- An interest in one, two, or all of the following: Tupac, Hip Hop, Rapping

**BOOKS THAT NEEDED TO BE BORROWED/RENTED/OR PURCHASED:**

Chopmaster-J, *Static: My Tupac Shakur Story* (New York: Herb N' Soul Media, 1999).

Tupac Shakur, *The Rose that Grew from Concrete* (New York: MTV Books/Pocket Books, 1999).

**ADDITIONAL READS :**

(Passages will be in Hip Hop Handbook which you will need to purchase for the class)

Paul Edwards, *How To Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC* (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2009).

Paul Edwards, *How to Rap 2: Advanced Flow & Delivery Techniques* (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2013).

Tayannah Lee McQuillar and Fred L. Johnson III, PhD, *Tupac Shakur: The Life and Times of An American Icon* (Cambridge: Da Capo Press, 2010).

Derrick Parker with Matt Diehl, *Notorious C.O.P: The Inside Story of the Tupac, Biggie, and Jam Master Jay Investigations for the NYPD's First "Hip-Hop Cop"* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2006).

Tricia Rose, *The Hip Hop Wars* (New York: Perseus, 2008).

Mario Van Peebles, Ula Y. Taylor, J. Tarika Lewis, *Panther: A pictorial History of the Black Panthers and the Story Behind the Film* (New York: New Market Press, 1995).

Vibe Magazine, *Tupac Shakur* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1997).

#### **GRADING:**

##### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: 30%

Everyone is expected to be physically and mentally present in class. Since, there is a lot of material to cover in just two hours a week, it's important to come to every class. I do understand that things come up, so two absences max will be allowed. If possible, please notify me ahead of time. Communication is key.

##### HOMEWORK: 25%

Homework consists of five types of assignments: reading, writing, listening, watching, and completing worksheets.

##### THE RAP: 25%

The bulk of this portion of the grade will be based on the final rap song you produce but will also take in consideration the drafts and improvements in between. See "Kaila's Rap Rubric" for a more detailed account of how you will be graded.

##### EVENT ATTENDANCE: 10%

Students will be required to attend **two** hip hop related events throughout the semester and complete a short write up. Options offered by the class are the end of the semester field trip (TBA) and Hip Hop in the Park which will be **May 3** from **10am-5pm** in **People's Park**.

##### DOCUMENTARY WRITE UPS: 10%

There are dozens, maybe even hundreds of documentaries on Hip Hop. Please choose **two** from the list that I've compiled for you. You will be required to watch and complete a short writing assignment on the documentaries of your choosing. You are free to choose a documentary not listed, but must have approval from me first.

Class	Date	Class Topic	Activity	Homework
1	10/27	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Course Overview</li> </ul>	<p>Rapping Workshop #1: Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What bars are &amp; how to count them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 📖 <i>How to Rap</i>-Ch 1 (Selections)</li> <li>• 📖 <i>Panther</i>-Ch 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>✓ Complete Worksheet</li> </ul>
2	2/3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>An Overview of African American History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “4 Stages of Colonization/Slavery”</li> <li>• Police Brutality</li> <li>• Blackface</li> </ul>	<p>Rapping Workshop #2: Rhyming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhyme Scheme &amp; Poetic Devices</li> <li>• Music Video Screenings &amp; Discussion of “The Science” &amp; “Bitch Bad”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 🎧 <i>The Golden Era</i> Playlist</li> <li>• 📖 <i>Notorious C.O.P.</i>-Ch 3 &amp; Part of 4</li> <li>• ✍️ <i>Notorious</i> Crossword</li> <li>• 📖 <i>How to Rap</i>-Ch 6</li> </ul>
3	2/10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Beginnings of Hip Hop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the Golden Era (The 80’s)</li> <li>• What characterizes 80’s music?</li> <li>• Crack Cocaine</li> <li>• <u>Key Players</u>: DJ Kool Herc, Melle Mel, Afrika Bambaataa, Kurtis Blow, KRS-One, Run DMC, Ice-T, LL Cool J, Public Enemy, Rakim, Eric B, D.O.C., Slick Rick, Too \$hort, Sugar Hill Gang, EPMD, Beastie Boys, Spice 1, De La Soul, Naughty by Nature, Gang Starr</li> </ul>	<p>Rapping Workshop #3: Flowing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving your unique style</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 🎧 <i>2Pacalypse Now</i></li> <li>• 👁️ <i>Brenda’s Got a Baby</i></li> <li>• 📖 <i>How to Rap</i>-Ch 7</li> <li>• 📖 <i>Tupac Shakur</i> (McQuillar)-Ch 13,14,&amp;17</li> <li>• ✍️ First 4 Bars Checklist</li> </ul>
4	2/17	<b>PRESIDENT’S DAY – NO CLASS</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 📖 <i>Static</i></li> <li>🚫 <b>First 4 Bars DUE!</b></li> </ul>
5	2/24	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The 90’s Hip Hop Scene &amp; Pac’s Early Career</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore School of the Arts</li> <li>• Dan Quale Criticism</li> <li>• Alleged Marin City Shooting</li> <li>• Atlanta Shooting</li> <li>• What characterizes 90’s music?</li> <li>• <u>Key Players</u>: Biggie Smalls, Nas, Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Eazy-E, De La Soul, Bone Thugs N’ Harmony, Ice Cube, NWA, Wu Tang Clan, Living Legends, Coolio, Blackstar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inquiry Group Discussion about T.H.U.G. L.I.F.E.</li> <li>• Close Reading Lyrics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 📖 1993 NY Times Article</li> <li>• 📖 <i>Tupac Shakur</i> (McQuillar)-Ch 25</li> <li>• 🎧 <i>Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z.</i></li> <li>• 👁️ <i>I Get Around</i></li> <li>• 👁️ <i>Keep Ya Head Up</i></li> </ul>
6	3/3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jeopardy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Categories Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black History</li> <li>○ Notorious C.O.P.</li> <li>○ <i>Static</i></li> <li>○ Pac’s Early Life/Career</li> <li>○ Rap Basics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Rapping Workshop #4: Recording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of GarageBand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 🎧 <i>Thug Life Vol 1</i></li> <li>• 📖 2PAC’S T.H.U.G L.I.F.E. rules</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">🚫 <b>First 8 bars DUE!</b></p>

7	3/10	<b>90's Hip Hop Continued &amp; Pac's Rise to Fame</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who is Latasha Harlins?</li> <li>Rape Charge</li> <li>The Outlawz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small group discussion</li> <li>"Play &amp; Guess" Game</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <i>Me Against the World</i></li> <li> Kaila's Playlist of Femcees</li> <li> Selections from the <i>Hip Hop Wars</i></li> </ul>
8	3/17	<b>Women in Hip Hop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A history of Femcees</li> <li>The portrayal of women in (hip hop) media</li> <li>The word "bitch"</li> <li>Tupac &amp; Women</li> <li><u>Key Players:</u> Sha Rock, Roxanne Shante, Salt 'N Pepa, MC Lyte, Queen Latifah, Yo-Yo, The Conscious Daughters, Da Brat, Lisa 'Left Eye', Foxy Brown, Lil' Kim, Lady of Rage, Lauryn Hill, Missy Elliott, Trina, Eve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music Video Screening</li> <li>Discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <i>All Eyez on Me</i></li> <li> <i>Tupac Shakur (McQuillar)</i>-Ch 37</li> </ul> <p> <b>First Verse DUE!</b></p>
9	3/24	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>		
10	3/31	<b>East Coast/West Coast Rivalry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tupac's Enemies</li> <li>Events leading up to Pac's death</li> <li>Quad Studios Shooting</li> <li><u>Key Players:</u> The Outlawz, Suge Knight &amp; Death Row Records, Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Nas, Biggie Smalls, Orlando Anderson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a character map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <i>The Don Killuminati: The 7 Day Theory</i></li> <li> <i>Notorious C.O.P.</i>-Ch 6</li> <li> Revise 1<sup>st</sup> Verse &amp; Work on Chorus</li> </ul>
11	4/7	<b>Pac's Death</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who killed Pac?</li> <li>Is Pac still alive?</li> <li>The implications of Pac's death on the music industry</li> <li>Biggie's Death</li> <li>The legacy that lives on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <i>The Rose that Grew From Concrete</i></li> </ul> <p> <b>Second Verse DUE!</b></p>
12	4/14	<b>Pac the Poet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pac's Poetry</li> <li>Recapping Pac's influences</li> </ul>	Rapping Workshop #5: Flow Mastery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paired group activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <i>Until the End of Time</i></li> </ul>
13	4/21	<b>Pac the Actor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filmography Overview</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening of <i>Selected Film</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Finish Rap</li> </ul>
14	4/28	<b>Cypher Celebration</b>		
*	5/3	<b>HIP HOP IN THE PARK</b>		