FYE Seminar

Hip Hop and the Politics of Race encourages students to explore artistic practices of hip hop and learn how to produce and promote a hip hop music/art event. Students will also learn to situate hip hop and rap music within broader discussions of race, gender, and sexuality in the 20th and 21st centuries. The main focus of this FIG is planning the 8th annual UO Hip Hop Jam, which we will pair with the Critical Art show produced by the Remixing Media, ©ritiquing ©ulture FIG.

Hip-Hop: History, Culture, Aesthetics

In the last forty years, hip hop has gone from local subculture to global phenomenon. This course examines the history and stylistic evolution of hip hop and rap music in a variety of social contexts—from Bronx streets to Madison Avenue and beyond. We will emphasize both artistic and political dimensions of the music. We will analyze aesthetics—the selection of particular sounds, rhythms, and images—and we will pay attention to how these choices relate to broader cultural and social concerns. Through this course, students will gain a better understanding of U.S. history, racial politics, technology, the recording industry, and of course hip hop music itself.

Introduction to Ethnic Studies

This course will introduce you to the academic field of Ethnic Studies, the interdisciplinary and comparative study of race, ethnicity and indigeneity in the United States. It will survey how racism and white supremacy, settler colonialism and colonialism have shaped the histories and experiences of people of color. It also explores how these systems of domination are intimately tied to issues of gender, class, and sexuality. Special attention is paid to how domination and acts of resistance create and recreate racial subjects.