EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 2520 6.0 SECTION A
CONTEMPORARY BLACK URBAN MUSIC
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/12/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Examines aspects of black urban music from circa 1985 to the present through an analysis of the musical style, culture, and social implications of a variety of genres such as rap, house, hip hop, jungle etc. Open to non-majors.

This course examines aspects of black urban music from circa 1985 to the present through an analysis of the musical style, culture, and social implications of a variety of genres such as rap, house, hip hop, jungle, gangsta rap, trip hop, etc. Artists studied include, MC Hammer, Kurtis Blow, Kool Herc, Sugar Hill Gang, Jazzy Jam, Fat Boy, LL Cool J, Gil Scott Heron, Jazzy Jeff, Fresh Prince, Defjam, Public Enemy, Run DMC, Master P, 2 Pac, Snoop Dogg (of Girls Gone Wild fame), Puff Daddy, Notorious BIG, Eminem (Marshall Mathers III), etc. Prerequisite: Musi 1520 6.0. No previous musical training is required. Open to non majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westray, Ron</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

**Course Time and Location:** Every Tuesday from 2:30-4:30 pm [Section A] or 4:30-6:30 pm [Section B], ACE 001 (excepting holidays, reading week, and/or university shutdowns)

**Classroom Requirements:** Notebook and writing utensils Computer Access (outside of lecture)
York University or other Email account
York U Moodle Account

**NO LAP TOP USE IN CLASS ROOM**
(Excepting any students with a qualified need verified in writing from Physical, Sensory and Medical Disability Services)

**NO PHONE or PDA USE IN CLASSROOM Course Description:**
The course involves formal lectures by the professor, accompanied by weekly content quizzes involving information and listening examples from the previous week’s lecture.
To enrich, clarify and illustrate crucial issues, the lectures will be supplemented with mixed media (MP3’s, Video, etc). The weekly lecture with supporting references will be the main source for all assessed information. Previous lecture notes may or may not be posted online, by the professor, preceding assessment. Lecture notes are the sole responsibility of the enrolled student. Suggested readings are essential for understanding the subject.

**Course Learning Objectives:**
(1) Brief statement of the purpose:
This course will examine Contemporary Black Urban Music and its historical development by tracing the evolution of soul and funk music into rap and hip-hop. The examination of CBUM/hip hop as a global force factors highly in this course. A wide range of topics will be presented to the student in preparation for written essays, philosophical flexibility and assessment.

(2) Specific course objectives for the student:
• Understand the historical evolution of CBUM/hip hop on a listening level
• Develop and retain an informed perspective regarding legendary figures, bands and/or genres in CBUM/hip hop
• Examine the historical and social implications of CBUM leading to the globalization of hip-hop, and how CBUM/hip hop is perceived and measured in society
• Be able to describe a range of cultural and economic effects fostered by the evolution of CBUM
• Discuss and write about CBUM from a historical, critical, and/ or global perspective

Suggested Readings for FA MUSC 2520, CBUM: (not required as classroom text)
• All About The Beat, John McWhorter, Gotham, 2008.
• Signifying Rappers, Mark Costello, David Foster Wallace, Ecco, 1997.
• The Black Poets, Dudley Randall, Bantam Books, 1985

(Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course)

Participation: Participation requires student's presence in each lecture, unless nonappearance is justified by written excuse.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered via the Moodle MUSI 2520 Course Website and will be accessible for a 24-hour window each Monday from 12:00 am – 11:59 pm.

PowerPoint/Essay: Assignment will be selected via lecture content and/or directed references. Presentations must be relevant to lecture content and must present provocative answers or queries, supported by history, research and /or innovation. Writing style must be of a clear and scholarly nature.

APA or MLA citation formats are recommended.

Grading Percentages

Tests:
• Test #1 November 28, 2017, 10% of final mark
• Test #2 February 13, 2018, 10% of final mark
• Test #3 March 20, 2018, 10% of final mark

Essay/PowerPoint:
• Fall Term Essay, Due January 9, 2018, 5% of final mark
• Winter Term PowerPoint Presentation, Due April 3, 2018, 5% of final mark

Participation/Attendance:
(20 lectures @ .5%) equals 10 % of final mark

Weekly Quizzes:
(17 @ 3.4%) equals 50% of final mark: Total: 100%

**Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade:**
Fall Term course **Nov. 10/17**; Winter Term course **Mar. 9/18**; Full Year course **Feb. 9/18**.

**Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests**

**Grading:** The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis.

**Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignments.

**Lateness Penalty:** Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized by 10%. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted

Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

**Missed Tests:** Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

**DISCLAIMER/ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**
By nature of the content of FA MUSI 2520 6.0 Contemporary Black Urban Music, the student may, at times, be exposed to one or all of the following:

- Provocative lyrics and innuendo
- Subject matter regarding race and race relations
- Philosophical opinions to which one may be opposed or averse

**FA MUSI 2520 6.0 Contemporary Black Urban Music is not intended for personal or political purposes. Students are encouraged to view MUSI 2520 content as “neutral social analysis.”**

**IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**
All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents)
http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_ete_main_pages/ccas.htm

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodations
Academic Honesty and Integrity: York students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty

(http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=69). There is also an academic integrity website with complete information about academic honesty. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website (http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity).

Access/Disability: York provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University. Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

Additional information is available through Counseling & Disability Services at www.yorku.ca/cds or from disability service providers:

- Personal Counselling and Learning Skills Services: N110 BCSS, 416-736-5297
- Mental Health Disability Services: N110 BCSS, 416-736-5297
- Learning Disability Services: W128 BCSS, 416-736-5383
- Physical, Sensory and Medical Disability Services: N108 Ross, 416-736-5140,

TTY: 416-736-5263. Deaf and Hard of Hearing students can also contact dhh@yorku.ca

Glendon students: Counselling & Disability Services, Glendon Site: Glendon Hall E103, 416-487-6709

Ethics Review Process: York students are subject to the York University Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.

Religious Observance Accommodation: York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course director immediately.

Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/ exam_accommodation.pdf (PDF)

Student Conduct: Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to
maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavor. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behavior by students in academic situations is available on the York website.

Please note that this information is subject to periodic update. For the most current information, please go to the CCAS webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents):
http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cse_main_pages/ccas.htm

FA MUSI 2520 6.0 Schedule 2017-2018

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Graded Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>September 12, 2017</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>September 19, 2017</td>
<td>Rhythm and Blues to Funk</td>
<td>Quiz 1 [Sep. 18]</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>September 26, 2017</td>
<td>Funk and Dub</td>
<td>Quiz 2 [Sep. 25]</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>October 3, 2017</td>
<td>Arrival of Hip Hop, Part I</td>
<td>Quiz 3 [Oct. 2]</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>October 10, 2017</td>
<td>Arrival of Hip Hop, Part II</td>
<td>Quiz 4 [Oct. 9]</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>October 17, 2017</td>
<td>The Golden Age of Hip Hop</td>
<td>Quiz 5 [Oct. 16]</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>October 24, 2017</td>
<td>Beef, Part I</td>
<td>Quiz 6 [Oct. 23]</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>October 31, 2017</td>
<td>West Coast/Gangsta Rap</td>
<td>Quiz 7 [Oct. 30]</td>
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<td>November 7, 2017</td>
<td>Beef, Part II</td>
<td>Quiz 8 [Nov. 6]</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>November 14, 2017</td>
<td>Turntablism</td>
<td>Quiz 9 [Nov. 13]</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>November 21, 2017</td>
<td>Assignment 1, Test 1 Prep</td>
<td>Quiz 10 [Nov. 20]</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>November 28, 2017</td>
<td>Test 1W I N T E R B R E A K</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>January 9, 2018</td>
<td>Beyond Beats</td>
<td>Assignment 1 Due</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>January 16, 2018</td>
<td>Neo Soul</td>
<td>Quiz 11 [Jan. 15]</td>
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<td>January 23, 2018</td>
<td>Sneakers</td>
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<td>January 30, 2018</td>
<td>Underground</td>
<td>Quiz 13 [Jan. 29]</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
<td>Test 2 Prep</td>
<td>Quiz 14 [Feb. 5]</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>February 13, 2018</td>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>Test 2</td>
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<td>February 20, 2018</td>
<td>READING WEEKS</td>
<td>-Quiz 15 [Feb. 26]</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>March 6, 2018</td>
<td>African Diaspora/Bebop</td>
<td>Quiz 16 [Mar. 5]</td>
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<td>March 13, 2018</td>
<td>Assignment 2, Test 3 Prep</td>
<td>Quiz 17 [Mar. 13]</td>
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<td>Test 3</td>
<td>Test 3</td>
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<td>March 27, 2018</td>
<td>Work Session, No Class</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>April 3, 2018</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University