IDS 3430
SOCIOLOGY OF HIP HOP CULTURE

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Social science courses should help us gain a deeper understanding of the social world in which we live. The subculture of Hip Hop has received attention from the media and the academic community for both bringing awareness to issues of inequality (Dyson 2010; Rodman 2006) and reinforcing stereotypes (Kitwana 2002; McWhorter 2003).

This course requires students to examine messages expressed within Hip Hop culture by applying major sociological perspectives and theories, including structural-functionalism, social conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, and feminism. Students are challenged to think in new ways about the structural and cultural aspects of inequality reproduction. This course examines the reciprocal relationship between Hip Hop culture and the broader American society. In other words, we will utilize sociological theories and methods to explore themes in Hip Hop culture and discuss the influence that Hip Hop culture has had on society. Accordingly, this course begins by defining Hip Hop culture and looking at its history in America through a sociological lens. After establishing this foundation, we will discuss topics such as commodification and authenticity, the dynamics of race, class, and gender in Hip Hop, social and cultural capital, social stratification, social reproduction, definitions of deviance, and political and social movement messages in Hip Hop culture.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Lisa Munson
Teaching Professor
lisa.munson@fsu.edu
Email responses within 24 to 48 hours, Monday - Friday.
Virtual Office Hours:
Sociology Department

COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Jovontae "Joe" Butts
Graduate Student

jlb19j@my.fsu.edu

Email responses within 24 to 48 hours, Monday - Friday.

Virtual Office Hours:
Sociology Department

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Twitter @FSU_Soc
Instagram @SociologyofHipHop
Facebook @ SociologyofHipHopCulture

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
After this course, students will be able to:

1. apply a sociological imagination and adopt a sociological perspective to the history and emergence of Hip Hop culture in America
2. identify and apply major perspectives and key theories from across disciplines used for a sociological analysis of culture and social problem
3. analyze and synthesize the structural and cultural explanations and theories for the Hip Hop cultural phenomenon in the U.S.
4. apply a critical awareness and understanding of the complex landscape of structural and cultural influences on social problems and their potential solutions.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

• Students should log on to Canvas at least every other day to check for course updates.
• Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignments by the due dates.
• Assignments, quizzes, and exams are expected to be products of individual students per the [FSU Academic Honor Policy](https://www.fsu.edu/policies/academic-honor-policy). Students should not discuss any of the questions with each other before or during the actual assignments, activities, quizzes, or exams without instructor approval.
• To receive maximum points for questions, students need to follow the instructions carefully, follow word limits as instructed, and use spell and grammar checking.
To be successful in this course, students need to complete all required assignments and tests.

MATERIALS
Required

  https://he.kendallhunt.com/munson
- Your textbook purchase links to a course website – a complete web-based assignment and assessment platform, accessible from multiple devices – and you will not be able to participate in the course without it. The website includes the following features:
  - Hover over definitions of key terms and theories
  - Flashcards for each chapter
  - Chapter music playlists with embedded links to Napster, connecting musical references with the text
  - Napster access code included with text purchase
  - A platform for all graded assignments
  - Student calendar reminders and alerts
  - Web support

GRADING POLICY
Your grade is based on the quality of your performance with respect to the course assignments and responsibilities. The allocation of points is as follows:

5. **Participation (12 of 15) = 10%** Weekly participation is required. Students will be asked to submit weekly assignments (a “weekly exercise”) worth points toward the participation category. Missed exercises cannot be made up; instead, I offer more than 15 opportunities during the semester (once each week). Twelve are required to receive full credit for the participation category.

6. **Chapter Quizzes (8) = 10%** You will be able to find the answers to each of the quiz questions using the required text and assigned materials. You will be given one hour to take the quiz. You should complete all assigned readings prior to taking the quiz and then utilize the entire hour to answer and verify your quiz responses. *Missed quizzes may be made up only when students meet the makeup work requirements as outlined in this syllabus. Documentation must be provided, and the work must be completed within two weeks of the quiz deadline. There are no exceptions to this policy.

7. **Course Paper (1) = 15%** A formal course paper will be required for this assignment. Detailed instructions are posted on the course website. Course papers are due at the end of the semester. To meet grade submission deadlines, late papers will not be accepted.
8. **Discussion Boards (3) = 30%** Each student is expected to post a 200–500 word position statement (a formal essay) in response to the topic and post two 75-200 word replies to other students’ position statement postings. Positions must include a citation to the assigned discussion board materials and each post must include a word count. Based on your posts' quality and relevance, you may earn a possible 10 points for your contribution in each group discussion. There will be no credit given for late postings, non-academic discourse or other inappropriate postings. Remember, to receive full credit for each group discussion, you must post three (3) times: a minimum 200-word formal position statement (not opinion), with required citation and references, and at least two replies with a 75-word minimum. **There will be no credit for late postings on the discussion board or non-academic discourse or other inappropriate responses.**

*Missed discussion boards may be made up only when students meet the makeup work requirements as outlined in this syllabus. Documentation must be provided, and the work must be completed within two weeks of the assignment deadline. There are no exceptions to this policy.*

9. **Exams (2) = 30%** Two 100-point exams consisting of 30 multiple-choice questions (worth 90 points) and two short answer essay questions (worth 5 points each).

Makeup work is accepted with documentation of an excused absence. Makeup work must be completed within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.

**Grading Summary**

Quizzes (8): 10%
Participation (12 of 15): 15%
Course Paper (1): 15%
Discussion Boards (3): 30%
Exams (2): 30%

**COURSE POLICIES**

**ATTENDANCE & MAKEUP POLICY**

Attendance will not be graded, and zoom meetings are optional.

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Makeup work is accepted with documentation of an excused absence. Makeup work must be completed within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.
POLICY FOR WEEKLY EXERCISES/PARTICIPATION

**Weekly participation is required.** Students will be asked to submit weekly assignments (a “weekly exercise”) worth points toward the participation category. Missed exercises cannot be made up; instead, I offer more than 15 opportunities during the semester (once each week). Twelve are required to receive full credit for the participation category.

POLICY FOR MISSED EXAMS, QUIZZES, AND DISCUSSION BOARDS

Missed quizzes and discussion boards may be made up only when students meet the makeup work requirements outlined in this syllabus. Documentation must be provided, and the work must be completed within one week of the assignment deadline. There are no exceptions to this policy.

POLICY FOR COURSE PAPER

Course papers are due at the end of the semester. To meet grade submission deadlines, late papers will not be accepted.

POLICY REGARDING STUDENT COLLABORATION

You are encouraged to study with your peers to understand course concepts better. However, for graded assignments, you must work on them without help from others. Students cannot work together or use online resources when completing graded assignments unless otherwise approved by the instructor. This includes things like GroupMe, Facebook groups, Quizlet, etc. Unsanctioned course collaboration may result in a zero for the assignment OR a failing course grade, at the instructor’s discretion. See the Academic Honor Policy for more information.

POLICY ON RESPONDING TO STUDENTS

- The Instructor and Teaching Assistant typically respond to emails within 24 to 48 hours - Monday through Friday.
- Graded assignments are typically returned within 2 weeks after the due date.

CLASSROOM COURTESY AND DISCOURSE

Although this semester will be mostly asynchronous interaction through board posts and weekly written exercises, it is important that you read, watch, and listen to the assigned material so that you will be ready to engage the material critically. Assigned readings are listed on the Course Calendar and can be found on the course website.

Meaningful and constructive dialogue is encouraged in this class. This necessitates a degree of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be supported at all times in this class. One’s words and use of language should be temperate and within acceptable bounds of civility and decency, regardless of the subject under discussion.

For Discussions:
• Please use polite, respectful behavior when posting your responses to prompts in the Discussion Boards.
• Be mindful of how you express your emotions and humor and be sensitive to the cultural and ability differences of your online peers.
• Keep postings to the point, and make sure your comments are relevant to the topic of discussion.
• Avoid messages such as, "Wow," "Way to go," or "Ditto," and aim for comments that validate other members’ ideas through careful explanation of why.
• When replying, give a short description in the subject line of what you are replying to, and use correct punctuation and spelling throughout your post.

For Email Communication:

Students must use an FSU e-mail address for course correspondence. It is critical to remember that E-mail is a professional communication and becomes part of your student record. (Ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read your message. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.)

E-mails should include the following information:

• the course name (I teach several classes each semester, so be sure to include the course and section),
• who you are addressing (“Hey” is not an appropriate greeting),
• the question, and
• your name.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to view videos, write and upload assignments, post to discussion boards, and take assessments. Students should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. Mobile devices may be used to view course content, upload assignments, and take assessments as determined by the instructor. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the FSU Canvas support site.

CANVAS SUPPORT

Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:

Email: canvas@fsu.edu
Phone: (850) 644-8004
Website: support.canvas.fsu.edu

Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday
FSU LIBRARIES RESOURCES & SERVICES
Whether on campus or learning online, you can access library resources easily. You'll find databases, tutorials, workshops, and other helpful resources in the FSU Libraries for Students Canvas org site (all students are enrolled automatically). For recommended research resources and ways to connect with your librarians, look for "Library Tools" in your Canvas course navigation.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Please note: Modifications to this policy have been made to accommodate the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see this memo that has been distributed to all faculty and instructional staff regarding the 2020-2021 academic year.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (For more details see the FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations.)

PROCESS FOR RESOLVING ACADEMIC PROBLEMS OR GRIEVANCES
Please use this step-by-step guide to resolving academic problems to begin the process of communicating with your instructor to resolve any confusion or difficulty you may be having in the course. Detailed information on FSU's grievance procedure, including special instructions for students enrolled in an FSU branch campus, is maintained on the General Bulletin's Academic Integrity & Grievances webpage. Out-of-state distance learning students should review the Office of Distance Learning Complaint Resolution page for additional procedures.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable
accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- (1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
- (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
- (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

**Office of Accessibility Services (Tallahassee Campus)**[Links to an external site.]
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas

**Student Disability Services (Panama City Campus)**[Links to an external site.]
Office of Student Affairs
4750 Collegiate Drive
2nd Floor Barron Building (Room 215)
Florida State University Panama City
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 770-2172 (office)
(866) 693-7872 (toll free)
Email: sds@pc.fsu.edu
https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-disability-services
FREE TUTORING FROM FSU (TALLAHASSEE CAMPUS)
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance are available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' website [Links to an external site.] or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY
"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."

### Course Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri Jan 15, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Chapter One Quiz</td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
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<td>Wed Jan 27, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Chapter Two Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Jan 29, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Discussion Board One</td>
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<td>Sun Feb 7, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Chapter Three Quiz</td>
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<td>Sun Feb 21, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Chapter Four Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Feb 26, 2021</td>
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<td>Mon Mar 1, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Exam One - March 1 between 8am - 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Sun Mar 7, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Chapter Five Quiz</td>
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<td>Wed Mar 17, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Chapter Six Quiz</td>
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<td>Wed Apr 7, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment Chapter Eight Quiz</td>
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<td>Mon Apr 12, 2021</td>
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<td>Assignment Social Problems Application Paper</td>
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<td>Assignment Post-Emergency Check-in Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Pre-Emergency Survey: Contact Information</td>
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