

Subject: EM: New Hip-Hop & Religion course
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From: Chavez, Linda

Sent on behalf of Prof. Gaston Espinosa

Spring 2025

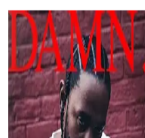
RLST 83 - Hip-Hop, Religion and Revolution

Create your own Hip-Hop video or write a spiritual biography for your final project

Prof. Gastón Espinosa - Tuesday, 2:45-5:00 PM, CMC Roberts South 105



This course explores the revolutionary intersections of Hip-Hop, religion, race, and social change from 1960-Present. It examines how Black and racial-ethnic Hip-Hop artists (Latino, Muslim, Jewish) have kept alive the civil rights and Black Power critiques of racism, inequality, poverty and the social construction of race-ethnicity, and how they used their music as a vehicle for social protest, criticism, and commentary. It also explores how they leveraged their superstar power and platforms to promote racial justice, cultural affirmation and empowerment, religious expression, and yet also struggle with commercialization, domestication, and harmful social practices. We will explore theories about music and social change, post-soul theology/ aesthetic, disruptive religion, spiritual intelligence, and the influence of MLK, Malcolm X, Nina Simone and the Civil Rights & Black Power movements on Hip-Hop. We'll draw on these insights to spend most of the course analyzing the musical activism & spiritual anti-racist social messaging of legendary Hip-Hop artists like Tupac, Ice-Cube, KRS-One, Queen Latifah, Lauren Hill, Kanye West, Kendrick Lamar, Drake, DJ. Khaled, Talib Kweli, Eminem, Daddy Yankee, Bad Bunny, Nikki Minaj, J. Cole, Rakim, and others. Assignments: lyrical & music video analysis, 2 short paper (spiritual journey, anti-racism/social criticism, or performativity or commercialization paper), group ppts on artists, a final paper or group Hip-Hop video, and a final dinner at the Athenaeum.



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