**MUS 2213 Creating and Performing Rap Music**

***Description:***

This course equips students with skills to create and perform rap music. The historical, social and political study of rap music will offer students the contexts in which to understand rap music and inform their creativity. Focus will be not only on its creation but also its performance, since often the compositional and performance process are rarely separated. Using American rap as the backdrop, students will explore ways of how they can adapt, recreate and reinvent rap. Students will be free to use any language and they are not limited in the themes of their creativity. For instance, student could create “gospel rap.”

***Objective****s:*

1. To trace the history of and understand the political and social contexts in which rap music has thrived
2. To develop skills of creating and performing rap music
3. To develop an appreciation of rap music as a reactive genre
4. To expand students skills in composition and performance

*Course Outline*

Topic 1: Brief History of Rap Music

Topic 2: Hip-Hop Culture

Topic 2: Rap Music in Uganda

Topic 3: Content Topics for Rap Music

* Real-life Content
* Fictional Content
* Controversial Content
* Conscious Content
* Club/ Party Content

Topic 4: Content Forms

* Battling Form
* Conceptual Form
* Story Form
* Abstract Form
* Humorous Form

Topic 5: Content Tools

* Imagery
* Similes, Metaphors, and Analogies
* Slag
* Vocabulary
* Word play
* Punch Lines

Topic 6: How Flow Works

* The Flow Diagram
* Beats and Bars
* Syllables and Stressed Syllables
* Fitting the Lyrics to the Beat
* Rests
* Overlapping Bars

Topic 7: Rhyme

* Perfect Rhyme
* Assonance (Vowel Sound Rhyme)
* Alliteration and Consonance
* Compound Rhymes (Multisyllable Rhymes)
* Coming Up with Rhymes

Topic 8: Rhyme Schemes

* Types of Rhyme Schemes
* Number of Rhymes in a Bar
* Rhyme Placement

Topic 9: Rhythm

* Coming Up with Rhythms
* The Pattern Diagram
* Patterns of Rhythms
* Rests

Topic 10: Writing Process

* Research for themes and stories
* Ways to writing Lyrics
* Keeping or Changing the Process

Topic 11: Beats and Free Style

* Writing with or without the Beat
* Picking Beats
* Rapping and Producing
* Freestyling

Topic 12: Structuring, Editing and Selecting Lyrics

* Song Structure
* Editing Lyrics
* Selecting Which Lyrics to Use
* Selecting Singles

Topic 13: Vocal Techniques

* Breath Control
* Enunciation
* Vocal Style
* Taking Care of Your Voice

Topic 14: In the Studio

* Reading or Memorizing the Lyrics
* Practicing the Vocals
* Deciding when to Take a Breath
* Guide Vocals
* Further Editing the Lyrics

Topic 15: Performing Live

* Confidence and Showmanship/Showwomanship
* Using the Mic and PA System
* Rocking the Crowd
* Being Spontaneous, Improvising, and Free Style
* Working with a Hype Man/Woman, DJ, or Group
* Learning from Other Artists’ Performance
* Rehearsing

*Learning Outcomes*

1. An understanding of the political and social contexts in which rap music has thrived
2. Ability to create and perform rap music
3. An appreciation of rap music as a creative genre

*Methods of Teaching/Delivery*

Lectures, demonstrations, tutorials, individual readings, concert review

*Modes of Assessment*

Course work

* Attendance and Participation in Class Discussion: 5%
* Concert review: 5%
* Mid-Semester Test: 10%
* Weekly Assignments: 20%

Final examination

* Project: 30%
* Written: 30%

*Selected Readings*

Bogdanov, Vladimir. 2003. *All Music Guide to Hip-Hop: The Definitive Guide to Rap and Hip-Hop.* San Francisco, CA: Backbeat Books.

Edwards, Paul and Kool G Rap. 2009. *How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC.* Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press.

Krims, Adam. 2000. *Rap Music and the Poetics of Identity (new Perspectives in Music History and Criticism.*New York: Kendal Hunt Publishers.

Oliver, Richard. 2006. *Hip-Hop: Success Strategies of the Rap Moguls.* New York: Thunder’s Mouth Press.

Richard, Mook. 2009. *Rap Music and Hip-Hop Culture.* New York: Kendal Hunt Publishers.

Woodstra, Chris and John Bush etal. 2008. *All Music Guide Required Listening: Old School Rap and Hip-Hop.* New York: Backbeat Books.