

Blackness, Korean-ness, Hip-hop

Instructor: Kyung Hyun Kim (East Asian Studies, UC Irvine)

Office Hours: Monday after class by appointments only

Course Objective:

This seminar intends to understand the history and aesthetics of hip-hop through its materiality of theory, music, and visual culture. The course will begin with the survey of American hip hop while paying attention to several other national incantations. How nationalism—both racialized and ethnic—plays an important part of the aesthetics of hip hop will be interrogated and questioned. The course will then consider questions of whether or not hip hop could be rooted in Korea—a country where the protection of national language of *hangul* remains tied to a postcolonial welfare. How *hallyu*, dominance of reality television shows, transnational identities, and postmodern politics all complicate the cultivation of hip hop in Korea will be examined.

Books and Articles:

Methodology and Theory

Andrejevic, Mark, *Reality TV: The Work of Being Watched* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004)

Bhabha, Homi K. *The Location of Culture* (Routledge, 1994)

Benjamin, Walter, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”

Deleuze, Gilles, *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia* (Penguin Classics, 2009)

Derrida, Jacques, *Of Grammatology* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976)

Du Bois, W.E.B., *The Souls of Black Folk* (Penguin Books, 2018)

Fanon, Frantz, *Black Skin, White Masks* (Grove Press, 2008)

Gates, Jr., Henry Louis, *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism* (Oxford University Press, 1988)

Gilroy, Paul, *Postcolonial Melancholia* (Columbia University Press, 2005)

Grossberg, Lawrence, *We Gotta Get out of This Place* (Routledge, 1992)

Jameson, Fredric “Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism”

Mbembe, Achille, *Critique of Black Reason* (Duke University Press, 2017)

Ranciere, Jacques, *The Politics of Aesthetics* (Bloomsbury, 2017)

American and Global Hip-hop

Bradley, Adam, *Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop* (Civitas, 2017)

Burton, Justin Adams, *Posthuman Rap* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

Chang, Jeff, *Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation* (Picador, 2005)

Condry, Ian, *Hip Hop Japan* (Duke University Press, 2006)

Forman, Murray and Mark Anthony Neal, eds., *That's the Joint!: The Hip-hop Studies Reader* (Routledge, 2004)

Forman, Murray, *The 'Hood Comes First: Race, Space, and Place in Rap and Hip-hop* (Wesleyan University Press, 2002)

Johnson, E. Patrick, *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity* (Duke University Press, 2003)

Potter, Russell A., *Spectacular Vernaculars* (SUNY Press, 1995)
 Rose, Trisha, *Black Noise* (Wesleyan, 1994)
 Serrano, Shea, *The Rap Year Book: The Most Important Rap Song From Every Year Since 1979, Discussed, Debated, and Deconstructed* (Abrams, 2015)
 Sharma, Nitasha Tamar, *Hip Hop Desis: South Asian Americans, Blackness, and a Global Race Consciousness* (Duke University Press, 2010)
 Thomas Jr., Dexter, "Can the Japanese Rap?" in *Traveling Texts and The Work of Afro-Japanese Cultural Production: Two Haiku and a Microphone*, William H. Bridges IV and Nina Cornyetz eds.

Korean Hip-hop and K-pop

Jung, Minwoo, "Precarious Seoul: Urban Inequality and Belonging of Young Adults in South Korea," *positions* 25:4
 Lee, Sangjoon and Abe Mark Nornes eds., *Hallyu 2.0: The Korean Wave in the Age of Social Media*
 Lie, John, *K-pop: Popular Music, Cultural Amnesia, and Economic Innovation in South Korea* (University of California Press, 2015)
 Lim, Jeehyun, "Black and Korean: Racialized Development and the Korean American Subject in Korean/American Fiction," *The Journal of Transnational American Studies* (2013)
 Shin, Hyunjoon and Seung-Ah Lee, *Made in Korea: Studies in Popular Music* (Routledge, 2017)
 Um, Hae-kyung, "The Poetics of Resistance and the Politics of Crossing Borders: Korean Hip-hop and 'Cultural Reterritorialisation,'" *Popular Music* 32.1 (2013)
 Yang, Myungji, *From Miracle to Mirage: the Making and Unmaking of the Korean Middle Class, 1960-2015* (Cornell University Press, 2018)

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance and Participation:	20%
In-class presentation:	20%
Final paper presentation:	10%
Final paper:	50%

- All students (both enrolled and audits) will be required to choose one week where they will discuss both readings and, using the readings as tools, analyze a hip hop track of their choice. Final paper can be written in either English or Korean. It must be 12-15 pages long—with reasonable font size and line spacing. A one-page precis that outlines the questions and themes addressed, as well as a list of books and articles discussed in the essay, will be due Week 13 (11/28).
- No devices of any kind will be permitted in class.
- Zero tolerance for plagiarized work will be exercised.

- Week 1 (9/3): Introduction (Du Bois/Walter Benjamin)
- Week 2 (9/10): History of Hip-hop and Double Consciousness (Gates/Gilroy/Bhabha)
- Week 3 (9/17) History of Hip-hop II and Waning of Affect (Baudrillard/Jameson's
"Postmodernism"/Castleman (Forman/Neal)/Holman (F/N)/ Chang I)
Watch *Wild Style*
- Week 4 Chuseok Holiday **Watch *Black Panther***
- Week 5 (10/1) History of Hip-hop III and Black Thought (Neal (F/N) / Chang II/
Fanon/Mbembe/Jameson II 410-72, Rose)
- Week 6 (10/8) Verses I and Race vs Class (Ranciere / Forman /Johnson/Serrano I)
- Week 7 Holiday **Watch *Friday* / *Krush Groove***
- Week 8 (10/22) Verses II and Schizo (Deleuze/Burton/Bradley I)
- Week 9 (10/29) Verses III and Vernacular (Potter/Bradley II/ Judy (F/N)/Schumacher
(F/N))
- Week 10 (11/5) Asian and Global Hip-hop (Flores (F/N)/Bennett (F/N)/ Condry,
Thomas/Sharma)
- Week 11 (11/12) Korean Hip-hop, Gender, and Sociology (Rose (F/N),
Jung/Lim/Um/Yang)
- Week 12 (11/19) Korean Hip-hop Case Studies: It G Ma (Keith Ape), Sich'a [We Are]
(Loco, Gray, and Woo Won-jae); Tiger JK (Bizzell, Serrano II, Tilland, Dal-yong
Jin, Ablemann/Kwon)
- Guest Lecture: Paul Sneed 11/19**
- Week 13 (11/26) Korean hip-hop and K-pop (Lie/articles from Lee and Nornes)
- Week 14 (12/3) Korean hip-hop and Reality television (Andrejevic, Su Holmes'
Dreaming a Dream: Susan Boyle and Celebrity Culture)
- Week 15 (12/10) Final paper presentations