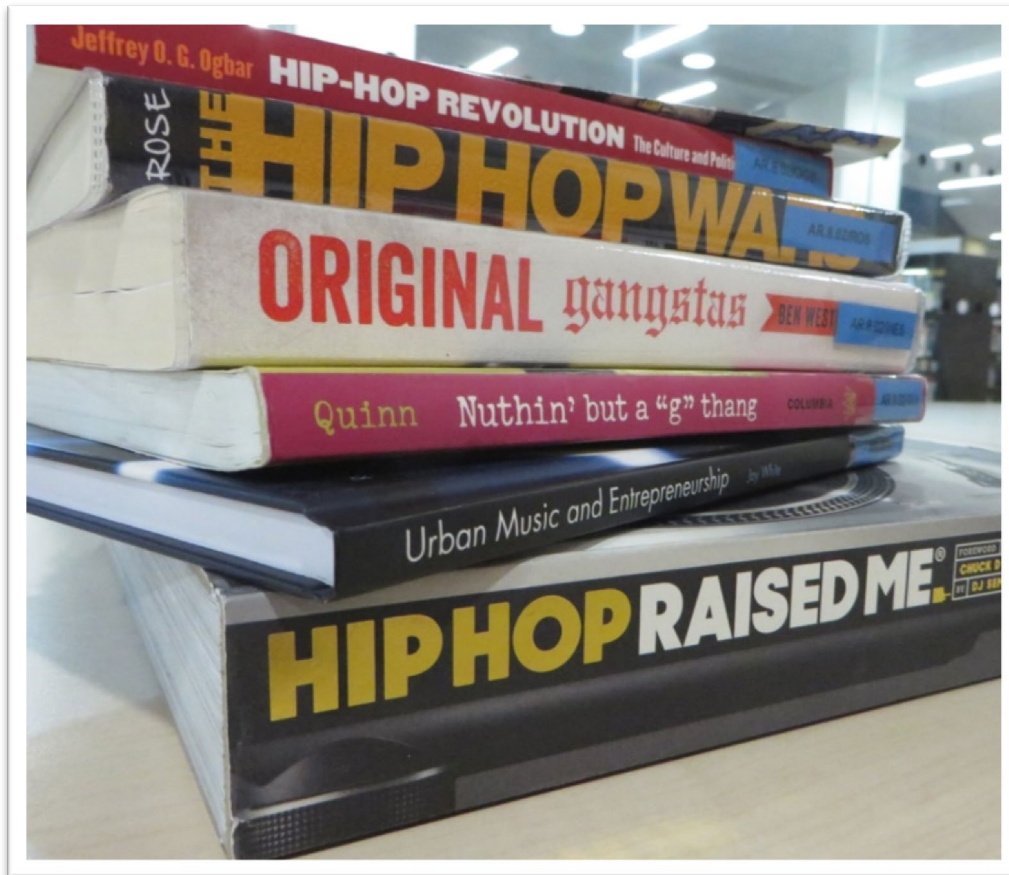


Hip Hop Studies at the Library



A study guide from the [Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre \(AIU Centre\)](#), University of Manchester

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Many thanks to Hattie Charnley-Shaw for the annotated book list and other contributions.

You can read about Hattie's work and the Hip Hop Collection project here:

<https://aiucentre.wordpress.com/2017/12/15/hip-hop-in-the-library/>

The Hip Hop Collection project was part-funded by the University of Manchester's Social Responsibility in the Curriculum Fund.

Introduction

Welcome to the bespoke Hip Hop Collection at the AIU Centre. These books and resources are meant for all people interested in hip hop culture, recent black history, and contemporary youth cultural and political trends. The Collection has a strong focus on the US, but you will also find a number of books and articles that focus on UK grime and rap music as well as on the global dimensions of hip hop culture.

I love hip hop, ever since my teenage years in the late 1980s, and I also love many of the books in this collection. They cover a range of rich and arresting topics showcased in and through hip hop music and culture. They consider how age-old expressive practices, built on deep histories of black, working-class marginalization and collectivism, have recurred in rap music and hip hop culture. Hip hop stages central paradoxes of our age: between individualism and collectivism, between authenticity and performance, and between grassroots and mainstream. Hip hop culture has been a central youth platform for resisting forces of repression and racism, of rising social inequality, and of hyper-capitalism; at the same time, it is complexly bound up with some of these same social dynamics. Hip hop dramatizes and shapes vital discussions about intersecting identity politics: generation, sexuality, class, gender, nationality, and of course race. It produces vivid stories, sounds and images that are full of wit, energy, and artistry that negotiate new freedoms but also new (and persisting) constraints in the period of 'post-civil rights' neoliberal capitalism.

With the resurgence of black civil rights activism resisting state violence against African Americans in the US and also in the UK – most powerfully through the Black Lives Matter mobilizations starting in 2013 – we have seen hip hop both instigate and reflect new politicization and radicalization. This vital recent history, as well as previous moments of heightened race activism (and troubling quiescence) in hip hop culture, are all powerfully traced in the books in this collection.

This small but growing collection, part-funded by the University of Manchester's Social Responsibility in the Curriculum Fund, reflects many of the research interests in my Hip Hop Studies module at the University, taught in American Studies. The collection reflects some of the central concerns of this course which grow out of my own research interests: hip hop education and how hip hop can and is being used in schools to enhance and challenge the curriculum; gangsta rap music and trends in hip hop culture of the late 1980s and 1990s; hip hop's political economy; hip hop, social movement building, and neoliberal inequality; and mass incarceration and the racist policing and prosecuting of rappers by the state (in the US and the UK).

Many libraries have been slow to acknowledge the aesthetic, social and political richness of hip hop culture. However, this cannot be said about the AIU Centre at Manchester Central Library. We hope hip hop fans, publics, students and researchers will find this collection an inspiring site of Hip Hop Knowledge.

Dr Eithne Quinn

American Studies, University of Manchester

What is Hip Hop Studies?

Hip hop first emerged as a rich new subculture developed by black and working-class youth in the South Bronx area of New York City in the 1970s. It became an immensely influential movement of art, music, breakdancing, united communities and new forms of resistance at both a local and an international level. While being a vital site of social and political engagement for black and working-class youth, hip hop culture has also become a major commercial force, particularly through the mainstreaming of rap music, rap branding and rap celebrities. Hip hop is now a multi-billion dollar business field.

Hip hop culture has given rise to a fertile academic field of inquiry called Hip Hop Studies. Hip Hop Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study, much like American Studies or Race Studies, which encompasses scholarship on history, race, art, politics, gender and sociology in relation to aspects of hip hop.

Since its inception, hip hop was a powerful vehicle for social and political change and for street schooling. Through the development of hip hop education initiatives, the music and culture have also been widely used in school classrooms. This is growing, vital movement of hip hop educators. 'Hip Hop Ed' projects can enhance existing teaching curricula while also challenging the terms of school teaching delivery and content.

Where to Start

Below are four key reads to introduce you to Hip Hop Studies:

What is African American History?

Pero Gaglo Dagbovie (Polity Press, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1752844>

Shelf: HI.3/DAG

Summary: Organized chronologically and thematically, *What is African American History?* provides a concise and engaging introduction to the field of African American history as well as black historical enterprise throughout past, present, and future. Pero Gaglo Dagbovie discusses many of the field's important turning points, with chapters on scholarship, race resistance, texts and women's history in particular.

Useful for: Researching black history in greater depth and contextualizing the emergence and development of hip hop culture.

Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A History of the Hip Hop Generation

Jeff Chang (Picador, St Martin's Press, 2005)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1098383>

Shelf: AR.8.02/CHA

Summary: This book 'fully tells the story' of the first hip hop generation, discussing its role as a job-making engine, a vehicle for black youth rebellion, and a chance to address changes caused by deindustrialisation and globalisation. The chapters are organised chronologically, beginning with late 1960s New York and ending in 2001. The book encompasses history, politics, culture and production of hip hop.

Useful for: Understanding the first 25 years of hip hop in its entirety.

That's the Joint! The Hip Hop Studies Reader

Edited by Murray Forman and Mark Anthony Neal (Routledge, 2004)

manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2680108

Shelf: AR.8.02/FOR

Summary: This comprehensive anthology brings together some of the best-known and most influential writings on rap and hip hop, helping consolidate Hip Hop Studies as a field of enquiry. Spanning nearly 25 years of scholarship, criticism, and journalism, the book demonstrates the influence of hip hop on global popular culture since its beginning in the late 1970s.

That's the Joint collects some of the most important hip hop scholarship in one comprehensive volume, addressing hip hop as a subcultural, musical and social practice.

Useful for: A broad understanding of Hip Hop studies as a field of study.

Black Noise: Rap music and black culture in contemporary America

Tricia Rose (Wesleyan University Press, 1994)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1959804>

Shelf: AR.8.02/ROS

Summary: This beautifully written book analyses the history and development of hip hop focusing on New York City, examining the cultural and social politics that helped to shape its interpretation. In the majority of her influential chapters, Rose focuses on the production, thematic and sonic elements of hip hop in relation to race, politics and culture, with an influential chapter focusing on women and sexual politics. A foundational hip hop text.

Useful for: Looking at how the production and creation of rap music is politically resistive and aesthetically complex; determined by black cultural-historical trends.

Books in the Library

We have a large collection of hip hop books in the AIU Centre library and some elsewhere in Central Library. Many of these books are categorised as 'hip hop' in the Manchester Libraries catalogue, here:

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/PAGE/OPAC/BIBENQ/228788981/1>

The annotated bibliography below presents the book collection by theme:

- [Hip Hop Culture](#)
- [US/World Race Relations and Hip Hop](#)
- [Hip Hop Education](#)
- [Gender / Feminism Studies](#)
- [Black Film Studies](#)

Unless otherwise stated, shelf references refer to the AIU Centre library, which is on the lower ground floor of Central Library.

Hip Hop Culture

Roc the Mic Right: The Language of Hip Hop Culture

H. Samy Alim (Routledge, 2006)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2588589>

Shelf: AR.8.02/ALI

Summary: This book is described as a 'Manifesto for Hip Hop Linguistics', written in both 'Hip Hop Nation Language' and academic discourse to prove this. It provides an in-depth analysis of the language of hip hop, including its connection to blackness, identity, power and poetics, using extensive fieldwork and first-hand experiences from the hip hop community itself.

Useful for: This text provides examples of how to view hip hop as a form of literature or language, drawing out how power relations are contested in and through language.

Jay-Z: Essays on Hip Hop's Philosopher King

Julius Bailey (ed.) (McFarland & Company, 2011)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2588591>

Shelf: AR.8.02/BAI

Summary: A collection of thirteen essays addressing one of America's leading rappers and hip hop entrepreneurs focusing on his musical, political and cultural

contexts. This book focuses on Jay-Z's negotiation of black identity politics, analysing his relevance to black oral history, socially responsible hip hop, boot-strap upward mobility, and black critique and revolution. Each essay concludes with a set of review questions, drawing out the book's educational emphasis and designed to spark discussion.

Useful for: Provides a good example of using a hip hop artist as a case study. Detailed information if writing on Jay-Z. The review questions at the end of each essay are useful for either writing your own questions, or furthering your study of hip hop artists and the genre more widely.

UK Hip-Hop, Grime and the City: The Aesthetics and Ethics of London's Rap Scenes

Richard Bramwell (Routledge, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1039642>

Shelf: AR.8.02/BRA (in the cabinet)

Summary: An analysis of the 'distinctively British rap culture' of grime, including an insight into the production, dissemination and use of rap in London. The book features interviews with rap artists, close analyses of rap tracks and in-depth ethnographic research, highlighting grime as a politically significant black subculture.

Useful for: Anyone focusing on UK hip hop or grime, with a strong focus on economic and social inequalities.

Soul Thieves: The Appropriation and Misrepresentation of African American Popular Culture

Tamara Brown and Baruti Kopanoeds (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1704913>

Shelf: AR.1/BRO

Summary: This volume considers the misappropriation of African American popular culture through various genres, largely hip hop, to argue that while such cultural creations have the potential to be healing agents, they are still exploited - often with the complicity of African Americans - for commercial purposes and to maintain white ruling class hegemony. This is representative of many scholarly accounts of Hip Hop Studies that challenge and critique the culture.

Useful for: Exploring the relationship between white listeners of hip hop and the appropriation of the genre. Useful for looking into white rappers, such as Eminem, and their position in the music industry.

The New H.N.I.C. (Head Niggas In Charge): The death of civil rights and the reign of Hip Hop

Todd Boyd (New York University Press, 2004)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1840553>

Shelf: AR.8.02/BOY

Summary: This book explores hip hop as an oral tradition, a philosophy and a worldview rooted in history and at the same time firmly of the moment. Focuses on questions of authenticity, though at times falls into a celebration of rap's 'keeping it real' mythologizing that could be called into question.

Useful for: Students analysing the elements of authenticity in hip hop lyrics, videos and culture.

To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic

Jelani Cobb (New York University Press, 2007)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1840388>

Shelf: AR.8.02/COB

Summary: A rich scholarly exploration of the roots of hip hop in West Africa, the black church and blues genre, with a focus on the 'four pillars' of hip hop – break dancing, graffiti, deejaying and rapping. While Jelani Cobb focuses less on hip hop as a social movement or cultural phenomenon and more on the 'aesthetic', the in-depth insight offers a deeper understanding of the origins and performance of this popular cultural phenomenon.

Useful for: Studying the basic and most important elements of hip hop music and culture, understanding its history, and analysing hip hop tracks or films as primary sources.

From Black Power to Hip Hop: Racism, Nationalism and Feminism

Patricia Hill Collins (Temple University Press, 2006)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=646791>

Shelf: CU.3.03/COL

Summary: This book contains six essays which explore the political realities of the period stretching from the end of Black Power to the rise in popularity of hip hop, authored by a world-leading black feminist sociologist. Focusing on the experiences of African Americans, Hill Collins covers issues concerning race-representational politics, American national identity, the black family and feminism.

Useful for: Forming conceptual connections between racism, nationalism and hip hop culture.

The Hip Hop and Obama Reader

Travis Gosa and Erik Nielson, (ed.) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1829278>

Shelf: AR.8.02/GOS

Summary: A collection that explores the political, social, and cultural significance of hip hop in the age of Obama. By examining the difficult and complex interactions between popular culture, contemporary politics, and capitalism, this book raises questions about hip hop's changing identity formations, its shifting claims to

authenticity, and the extent to which it can serve as a vehicle for social and political change in the age of Obama and beyond.

Useful for: Increasing an understanding of hip hop's relevance to formal and grassroots politics, and applying ideas about hip hop for social change and in education.

Why Music Matters

David Hesmondhalgh (Blackwell, 2013)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1176468>

Shelf: AR.8.HES

Summary: This book uses intersecting theories and fields of research to examine the role that popular music plays in our society, ultimately arguing that music has complex capabilities for helping us transcend societal divides. The chapters are entitled 'Feelings and Emotion', 'Love and Sex', 'Sociability and Place', and 'Commonality and Cosmopolitanism', and cover a variety of topics.

Useful for: Chapter 3 has a section on 'Black Music and Racialized Sexuality', which analyses Snoop Dogg as a case study, and considers the possibilities and constraints for music as an agent of political change. The book also has a useful section on music of the African diaspora.

Decoded

Jay-Z (Spiegel & Grau, 2010)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2588592>

Shelf: AR.8.02/JAY

Summary: This book is a first-person chronicle of the life and work of Jay-Z, born Shawn Carter in Brooklyn's Marcy Projects. Jay-Z shares the story of his life through the 10 codes that define him, giving an unparalleled insight into his background, influences and the artistic process that shapes his work. The book contains lyrics, images and personal narrative.

Useful for: Students looking for a specific and in-depth case study and a key rapper's perspective on questions of rap aesthetics, individualism, communalism, consumerism, inequality, racism and entrepreneurialism.

Sounding Race in Rap Songs

Loren Kajikawa (University of California Press, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1752820>

Shelf: AR.8.02/KAJ

Summary: This book combines song-level analysis and historical contextualisation of some of the best-known rap songs of the past thirty-five years in order to argue that rap music provides new understandings of race and identity. Through analysing differences in beats, lyrics and imagery of artists such as Grandmaster Flash, Dr. Dre,

Eminem and The Sugarhill Gang, Kajikawa attempts to answer the question 'can we hear race in rap songs?'

Useful for: Discussing how rap and hip hop tackle the subject of race in their lyrics and sounds. The discography and filmography at the back of the book provide a good resource for finding case studies of rap tracks for lyrical analysis and films for visual analysis within hip hop.

Why White Kids Love Hip Hop: Wankstas, Wiggers, Wannabes and the New Reality of Race in America

Bakari Kitwana (Basic Civitas Books, 2005)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=473165>

Shelf: AR.8.02/KIT

Summary: Through several interviews with young people whose lives have been shaped by hip hop, Kitwana presents the 'national reality of race', focusing on racialization and racism. The book dismantles the myths surrounding race and culture and its audience, focusing most predominantly on questions of identity between black and white youth.

Useful for: Assessing whiteness in hip hop music and film, and thinking about the audience of hip hop rather than the performers and producers.

The Hip Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African-American Culture

Bakari Kitwana (Basic, 2002)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1849570>

Shelf: AR.8.02/KIT

Summary: *The Hip Hop Generation* is an exploration of black youth culture at the turn of the century, the first generation to grow up in post-segregationist America. It combines culture and politics into a pivotal work in American Studies, divided into two parts covering incarceration, film, politics and social responsibility.

Useful for: Though this book does not analyse hip hop at a musical level, it analyses almost every aspect of black life that can be associated with hip hop culture. It is a useful text for wide research within Hip Hop Studies.

Hip Hop Revolution: The Culture and Politics of Rap

Jeffrey Ogbar (University Press of Kansas, 2007)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2614609>

Shelf: AR.8.02/OGB

Summary: A historiographical discussion of the past and present culture and politics of hip hop, with chapters covering black image, ethnicity, class, gender and the prison industrial complex. Offers a successful balance of an insider's insight and a historian's critique.

Useful for: Forming answers to common controversial questions surrounding hip hop culture, such as its effect on society and youth culture. A good text for dividing up the large field of Hip Hop Studies.

Prophets of The Hood: Politics and Poetics in Hip-Hop

Imani Perry (Duke University Press, 2004)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1960077>

Shelf: AR.8.02/PER

Summary: As both a scholar and a fan, Perry provides an individual criticism of hip hop in terms of art, race politics and culture with reference to several artists as case studies. This book includes specific focus on the form and narrative features of hip hop tracks, such as 'call and response' and the use of metaphor in African American culture. While Perry recognises hip hop as a transnational music form, she enforces that it is first and foremost a black American music genre.

Useful for: This book is useful for looking at many aspects of hip hop, but perhaps its most striking contribution is its text-level analysis of form and language within lyrics and performance (see for instance chapter 3).

Nuthin' But a "G" Thang: The Culture and Commerce of Gangsta Rap

Eithne Quinn (Columbia University Press, 2005)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1839568>

Shelf: AR.8.02/QUI

Summary: This book offers an in-depth analysis of the gangsta rap genre, its origins in black working-class expressive culture, and its relationship with neoconservative politics in the post-civil rights US, amongst several other topics. Quinn provides particular insight into gangsta rap's connection to black entrepreneurialism, individualist-versus-communalist thought and the conditions of the music industry itself.

Useful for: The areas of focus in this book can also be applied to hip hop more widely, especially the notions of black cultural enterprise and the racial burdens of representation.

Urban Music and Entrepreneurship: Beats, Rhymes, and Young People's Enterprise

Joy White (Routledge, 2017)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2452364>

Shelf: AR.8/WHI

Summary: This book explores the socio-economic significance of urban music in the UK, focusing on the grime music scene in East London and the enterprise that emerges from it. White offers a detailed analysis of the position of marginalised young people under the NEET categorisation (not in education, employment or training), ultimately arguing that grime is a key part of the informal creative economy in the UK.

Useful for: Researching the UK urban music scene. Also useful for looking into the enterprise and business aspect of urban music, and can be connected to the neoliberal work ethic aspect of hip hop.

The Cambridge Companion to Hip Hop

Justin A. Williams (ed.) (Cambridge University Press, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1705678>

Shelf: AR.8.02/WIL

Summary: A widespread collection of hip hop scholarship, featuring twenty-five essays on various elements of the genre, including: the key aspects of hip hop (breakdancing, graffiti, deejaying and rapping), visual arts, religion, production, cinema, gender, sexuality and class. There are also essays on hip hop's existence in several countries around the world, including the UK, Japan, Cuba and Germany.

Useful for: Identifying new aspects of hip hop which are not covered in mainstream Hip Hop Studies. A good source for locating further reading on many aspects of hip hop.

Shine: The Visual Economy of the Light in African Diasporic Aesthetic Practice

Krista Thompson (Duke University Press, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1726845>

Shelf: AR.3/THO

Summary: In this book, Thompson explores the importance of being photographed, and being seen to be photographed, within hip hop culture and African diasporic communities. Using examples of posing with certain backgrounds and props, portraiture, and competition for the limelight at certain events across the United States and the Caribbean, she argues that the resulting images become memories and formations of cultural identity and status within black diasporic communities.

Useful for: Drawing comparisons between the paparazzi and celebrity culture that exists within mainstream hip hop with the more everyday aspects, such as social media or art within grassroots hip hop. A useful book for understanding how photography and imagery are key to both.

The Hip-Hop Underground and African American Culture: Beneath the Surface

James Braxton Peterson (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1676075>

Shelf: AR.8.02/PET

Summary: Using the underground railroad from the time of slavery as his earliest example, Peterson explores the relevance and various meanings of the term 'underground' in African American culture. Drawing on a variety of scholars, hip hop artists, and writers, this book provides a complex understanding of the manifestations of the underground as a tool of African American expressivity.

Useful for: Understanding how motifs can be identified within hip hop culture that have been relevant to African American culture since the time of slavery.

Music and Politics

John Street (Polity Press, 2012)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1569165>

Shelf: AR.8/STR

Summary: An examination of music's political power and the musician's role in speaking for political causes. It discusses the significance of music across time and space, from Aristotle to the current day.

Useful for: Although not directly about hip hop, this book provides a good framework for formally including the music industry and musicians within debates about politics. It may be useful for comparing or contrasting the role of hip hop in politics with the role of classical music or other genres.

Global Linguistic Flows: Hip Hop Cultures, Youth Identities, and the Politics of Language

Edited by H. Samy Alim, Awad Ibrahim and Alastair Pennycook (Routledge, 2009)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2620250>

Shelf: CU.7/ALI

Summary: This collection assesses hip hop culture, youth identities and the politics of language across the world: Africa, Asia, Australia, the Americas and the European Union, inevitably focusing on transnationalism and globalisation. It aims to 'expand current theoretical approaches' to language choices and agency within hip hop.

Useful for: Writing an essay on hip hop's position on a world stage rather than just the United States or making comparisons between the different cultures that exist around the world.

Cultural Studies 1983: A theoretical History

Stuart Hall (Duke University Press, 2016)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2441901>

Shelf: CU.1/HAL

Summary: A collection of lectures by Stuart Hall, an influential scholar in the field of Cultural Studies. The theoretical reflections made by Hall in these lectures form the basis of the work of many other scholars, and provide authoritative Cultural Studies frameworks for providing the means for political change and also for understanding why constructive change doesn't happen.

Useful for: Developing a conceptual understanding of Cultural Studies. The final chapter on 'Culture, Resistance and Struggle' is especially useful for essays on ideology within hip hop culture.

Parodies of Ownership: Hip-Hop Aesthetics and Intellectual Property Law

Richard L. Schur (The University of Michigan Press, 2009)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2680104>

Shelf: AR.8.02/SCH

Summary: Providing the necessary context for understanding contemporary debates within African American Studies, intellectual property law, African American literature, art history and Hip Hop Studies, this book criticises how racism continues to affect the United States.

Useful for: There are specific chapters on hip hop aesthetics and its consequences, which are useful for placing hip hop culture beside other social issues within the United States and seeing how each affects the other. This book is also more interdisciplinary than others, and is therefore more useful for those interested in topics such as law or property in relation to hip hop.

US / World Race Relations and Hip Hop

Articulate While Black: Barack Obama, Language and Race in the U.S.

H. Samy Alim and Geneva Smitherman (Oxford University Press, 2012)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1066681>

Shelf: CU.7/ALI

Summary: This book explores the politics of language in relation to the politics of race, focusing specifically on Obama's use of language in his oral addresses and his role as a 'master of Black (American) rhetoric'. Alim and Smitherman cover a variety of themes, demonstrating the use of both scholarly academic prose and 'streetwise' terms to illustrate their points.

Useful for: While the entire book is undeniably very useful, the final two chapters are particularly relevant. Chapter 5 covers hip hop specifically, in the context of the 'culture wars', which may be useful when putting hip hop tracks and artists in context of race relations in the US. Chapter 6 discusses language and racism in education, which is useful when considering difficulties and practicalities of creating hip hop pedagogy.

Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice

Paul Butler (The New Press, 2009)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ>

Shelf: CR.1.03/BUT

Summary: A provocative critique of crime and punishment in the United States, specifically focusing on cases where 'ordinary citizens meet the justice system'. Butler provides controversial new methods of resistance against the justice system,

within the roles as jurors, witnesses and the prosecuted, offering a deep critique of the criminal justice system. A very accessible read.

Useful for: Relating Hip Hop Studies to the field of Law or Criminal Justice, writing on the criminalisation of hip hop, or thinking about the morality of the US justice system using rap lyrics as evidence in criminal cases.

We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Resegregation

Jeff Chang (Picador, 2016)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2618197>

Shelf: HI.3/CHA

Summary: A collection of essays on current topics of racial inequality and resistance, such as #BlackLivesMatter, #OscarsSoWhite, Ferguson and Beyoncé's album *Lemonade*. With thorough discussion of the current culture wars being fought by activists, organisers and artists, Jeff Chang discusses the danger of resegregation and the politics of celebrating 'diversity'.

Useful for: Thinking about the role of contemporary hip hop artists in moments of resistance and using hip hop as a portal for understanding the history of segregation.

Between the World and Me

Ta-Nehisi Coates (Text Publishing, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1830002>

Shelf: HI.3/COA

Summary: In the form of a letter to the author's adolescent son, this acclaimed and controversial book details the history of race in America, the experience of 'inhabiting a black body' in the present day, and attempts to envision the life of African Americans in the future. The book includes photographs and personal anecdotes, as well as historical information and reportage.

Useful for: Teaching or writing on African American Studies, white identity politics, black history, and current race relations in the US.

Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics

Cathy J. Cohen (Oxford University Press, 2010)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1839211>

Shelf: PO.3.01/COH

Summary: A critique of the idea of 'post-racial America' through the voices of black youth themselves. Cohen offers a critical examination of those caught between the promise and failure of American democracy, while also discussing political theory and progressive thought. Though not directly connected to Hip Hop Studies, several of the chapters refer to famous figures of hip hop and the surrounding genres, such as Kanye West and gangsta rap.

Useful For: Studying current race relations in the US, and forming an understanding of the experience of black youth today.

The Threat of Race: Reflections on Racial Neoliberalism

David Theo Goldberg (Blackwell, 2009)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2588587>

Shelf: CU.2/GOL

Summary: Written by a renowned scholar of critical race theory, *The Threat of Race* explores how the concept of race has been historically produced and how it continues to be articulated, if often denied, in today's world. Goldberg includes chapters exploring race in Palestine, Europe, Latin America and South Africa.

Useful for: Understanding US race relations in relation with the rest of the world.

The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Oxford University Press, 1988)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1870860>

Shelf: 810.9896Ga2 (Reference Library (4th floor))

Summary: A historical look into African and African American expressive traditions, and the relationship between them. Gates incorporates literary as well as cultural theory, using folklore and popular myths and 'signifying figures' such as 'The Signifying Monkey' to uncover a system of interpretation bound up with many of the same critical ideas as 'Western' literary theory. In the second part of the book, Gates analyses several major works by writers such as Zora Neale Hurston and Ralph Ellison.

Useful for: Studying black literary traditions and theories with a focus on folklore and African heritage, and seeing how these continue in and through rap.

Watching Race: Television and the Struggle for 'Blackness'

Herman Gray, (University of Minnesota Press, 1995)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1994714>

Shelf: AR.9.03/GRA

Summary: This book explores the historical and contemporary portrayals of African Americans on television, analysing the stereotypes, issues of accuracy and media coverage of various sitcoms and series. A leading media sociologist, Gray places his analysis in relation to the racial workings of ideology and how the figure of blackness can be reproduced and contested in the cultural industries.

Useful for: Understanding US racist discourses about black 'others' and how these can be challenged. Also useful for understanding television and analysing programmes such *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* that have a hip hop influence.

Darker Than Blue: On the Moral Economies of Black Atlantic Culture

Paul Gilroy (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1836592>

Shelf: CU.2/GIL

Summary: Written by one of the foremost cultural critics in the field, this book considers the way that consumerism has diverted the political and social aspirations of African American culture. It looks at how luxury goods, branded items and an inordinate focus on consumerism, have come to reorganise society, weaken citizenship, and diminish collective spirit. Hip hop is bound up with such consumerist dynamics, argues Gilroy.

Useful for: Researching the connections between consumerism and materialism and hip hop culture. Gilroy covers topics such as cars, jewellery, clothes and wealth in general.

Still A House Divided: Race and Politics in Obama's America

Desmond S. King and Rogers M. Smith (Princeton University Press, 2011)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1232094>

Shelf: PO.3/KIN

Summary: This book examines the divisions that exist in racial politics and race policies in the United States. King and Smith explore topics such as housing, employment, criminal justice and voting, all of which are heavily affected by racial inequality.

Useful for: While the book does not have a music or popular culture focus or mention hip hop explicitly, it is very useful for looking at the African American experience more widely, and establishing the historic and political context of hip hop.

Yo' Mama's Disfunktional! Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America

Robin D. G. Kelley (Beacon Press, 1997)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1839327>

Shelf: CU.3.03/KEL

Summary: In this book, leading cultural historian Robin Kelley works to undermine dominant ideologies about black culture, and explains African Americans' rich contributions and complex responses to post-civil rights urban America. Kelley critically examines the work ethic of black youth, as well as ideas of 'self-help ideologies' and the 'new working class'.

Useful for: Contextualising ideologies found within hip hop culture and lyrics in real life experiences, practices, and policies. Researching the aspects of black culture which are most heavily connected to working-class black youth.

Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril Among the Black Middle Class

Mary Pattillo-McCoy (University of Chicago Press, 1999)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1839463>

Shelf: PO.3.01/PAT

Summary: This book provides an analysis of America's black middle class, a section of the US population that is often overlooked. Leading sociologist, Pattillo-McCoy writes

about a Chicago south-side neighbourhood, detailing the everyday lives and experiences of African Americans existing as middle class citizens. She argues that despite the privileges of middle-class jobs, single-family homes, and private schools, they face 'unique perils' caused by prevailing inequalities, exemplifying the separate and unequal status of many middle-class African Americans.

Useful for: Analysing class and wealth as a factor of inequality. A particularly relevant chapter is titled 'In a Ghetto Trance', which relates to ghettocentric culture. Useful to consider alongside rap's complex contestation of US class dynamics.

Audience, Agency and Identity in Black Popular Culture

Shawan M. Worsley (Routledge, 2010)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1062900>

Shelf: AR.1/WOR

Summary: This book analyses representations in popular culture that appropriate anti-black stereotypes. Worsley's examination attempts to outline the historical circumstances that influence purposefully derogatory representations of black subjects and documents the consequences of these images. The book includes two sections on the topic of hip hop, which can be found in chapters six and seven. Interesting discussion of *Source* magazine and Eminem.

Useful for: Assessing different perceptions and interpretations of potentially derogatory representations within hip hop, for example of women. Useful also for understand historical context of some of the imagery used in hip hop art and videos.

The End of Protest: A New Playbook for Revolution

Micah White (Alfred A. Kanopf, 2016)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2619904>

Shelf: PO.7/WHI

Summary: Written by the co-creator of the Occupy Wall Street movement, this book offers a vision for the future of activism divided into three main parts, Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow. White uses his own experiences of activism and protest, current examples of activism, and a detailed evaluation of past protests to form a playbook for revolutionary thought and action.

Useful for: The ideas of cultural and political protest in this book may be useful alongside texts that consider hip hop as a tool for social transformation.

The New Politics of Race: Globalism, Difference, Justice

Howard Winant (University of Minnesota Press, 2004)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1840701>

Shelf: PO.3/WIN

Summary: This book tackles the notion that we are 'beyond race'; that we have moved past it. A foremost race sociologist, Winant explains that race is still central to modern politics, identity and social structures.

Useful for: Much like Winant's previous book, also on this list, this is a useful text for presenting frameworks for thinking about race and its role within politics and society on a global scale.

The World is a Ghetto: Race and Democracy Since World War II

Howard Winant (Basic Books, 2001)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1836041>

Shelf: PO.3/WIN

Summary: 'A rethinking of the dynamics of race on a world scale', this book deals with democracy, economic development, labour and identity in order to understand race in a global context. Authoritatively written, Winant covers capitalism, conquest, slavery, migration and war. The chapter on shifting US racial formations is illuminating.

Useful for: A broad understanding of race relations, racial politics and the history of race as a construct. This book operates on a world scale, so some chapters will be more relevant to the American or European context than others.

Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics

Lester K. Spence (University of Minnesota Press, 2011)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2625095>

Shelf: AR.8.02/SPE

Summary: Spence offers in this book an answer to the question 'To what extent are African American hopes and fears about hip hop's potential political power justified?' He uses case studies, survey data and experiments combined with analysis of neoliberalism to assess the 'political consequences of rap culture for black publics' and his conclusions are provocatively pessimistic.

Useful for: A hip hop lesson on the topic of politics or political history/culture. Also for those interested in hip hop culture, art or music to social movements, political campaigns or ideology of the African American public.

Hip Hop Education

Beats, Rhymes and Classroom Life: Hip Hop Pedagogy and the Politics of Identity

Mark Lamont Hill (Teachers College Press, 2009)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2614605>

Shelf: ED.6.02/HIL

Summary: A book outlining the value of hip hop to education, particularly in tackling achievements gaps. Hill demonstrates that hip hop has more than a 'fashionable hipness' to offer schools, giving examples of using the music genre in areas of schooling such as studying literature, story-telling, politics and collective

memories/identities. Hill uses quotes from his experiences in classrooms to demonstrate his argument.

Useful for: Learning more about the concept of using hip hop in education, and see an example of it in practice.

Schooling Hip-Hop: Expanding Hip-Hop Based Education Across The Curriculum

Marc Lamont Hill and Emery Petchauer (ed.) (Teachers College Press, 2013)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2576536>

Shelf: ED.6.02/HIL

Summary: This collection includes the work of scholars and educators from several different fields, all contributing to the charting of a 'new territory for hip hop based education.' The research hopes to outline areas outside of music or language that can include hip hop, such as science, social studies and teacher education. Authors consider that not only the content of hip hop can be useful, but also the aspects of freestyling and competitive battling to ask questions about the best delivery of teaching.

Useful for: Thinking about how hip hop can be used innovatively in the classroom to enhance learning.

The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black life in America

Mumia Abu-Jamal and Marc Lamont Hill (Third World Press, 2014)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2588585>

Shelf: CU.3.03/ABU

Summary: This book contains a collection of conversations between celebrity intellectual Marc Lamont Hill and famed political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal on topics such as race, politics, hip hop culture, education, mass incarceration and love. It reads informally, and is a deeply insightful account of the many forces impacting the lives of African Americans and some of the most pressing issues in 21st century African American life.

Useful for: Though not as in-depth as Marc Lamont Hill's previous work on hip hop in education (also featured on this list), this book does feature discussion on this topic. Useful for thinking about radical and black nationalist pedagogy.

Gender / Feminism Studies

Black Women as Cultural Readers

Jacqueline Bobo (Columbia University Press, 1995)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1915186>

Shelf: 791.43652Bo(947) (Reference Library (4th floor))

Summary: This book is a study of African American women's responses to literature and film, such as *The Colour Purple* by Alice Walker. It features interviews with

women as well as engagement with reception materials from the press about these often controversial and acclaimed texts.

Useful For: Looking into the audience of hip hop tracks, rather than just the producers, performers or subjects. Also relevant to considering themes such as sexualisation and how these are interpreted by women audiences and readers.

Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment

Patricia Hill Collins (Unwin Hyman, 1990)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1844508>

Shelf: 305.42Co[962] (Reference Library (4th floor))

Summary: An exploration of the intellectual traditions of African American women which have been developed despite, and because of, the double burden of racial and gender discrimination. This book incorporates the work of black feminist authors and public intellectuals including bell hooks, Angela Davis and Audre Lorde.

Useful for: Gaining an overview of black feminist thought, as well as researching individual feminists. Chapters 8 and 9 are on sexual politics and sexuality, and may be useful for analysing the recurring tropes and sexualisation/sexual empowerment of women within hip hop culture.

The Black Feminist Reader

Joy James and Denean Sharpley-Whiting (Blackwell, 2000)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2618189>

Shelf: AR.2.05/JAM

Summary: A compilation of ten key essays examining the development of Black feminism, written by influential academics, authors and activists such as Angela Davis, bell hooks, and Toni Morrison. The selection covers the literary, social and political thoughts of feminism and antiracial thought, covering topics such as marginalisation, justice and community.

Useful for: Using intersectional feminist theory to analyse gender and sexuality in hip hop tracks.

Check It While I Wreck It: Black Womanhood, Hip-hop Culture and the Public Sphere

Gwendolyn Pough (Northeastern University Press, 2004)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2588586>

Shelf: AR.8.02/POU

Summary: This book explores the lives of young black women who came of age during the hip hop era and are still fighting for equality. Pough analyses rap music, novels, spoken word poetry, hip hop cinema and hip hop soul music, and traces the rhetoric of black women 'bringing wreck'. The book demonstrates how influential female rappers such as Queen Latifah, Missy Elliot, and Lil' Kim are building on the legacy of generations of women to disrupt the dominant patriarchal public sphere.

Useful for: Research on feminism, patriarchy and female portrayals in hip hop. Provides examples of hip hop texts and influential female figures in the industry.

Pimps up, Ho's Down: Hip Hop's hold on young Black women

Denean Sharpley-Whiting (New York University Press, 2007)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2006270>

Shelf: AR.8.02/SHA

Summary: This book explores the relationships between hip hop and sex industries, the impact of hip hop's hetero-sexist culture on young black women, and the hip hop generation's conceptions of love and romance. The book covers topics from beauty standards to sexual abuse to dancing.

Useful for: This book is especially useful for researchers looking into gendered perspectives of hip hop. It will be useful for lessons or essays on the image and treatment of women and feminism within hip hop and black popular culture.

Not Just Race, Not Just Gender: Black Feminist Readings

Valerie Smith (Routledge, 1998)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1841575>

Shelf: GE.1/SMI

Summary: An intersectional rethinking of theory, scholarship and pedagogy which challenges the 'presumptive maleness' of Black studies and American studies and the 'presumptive whiteness' of feminist studies which suppress black women's experiences. Valerie Chang uses literary and cinematic material to apply intersectional thinking across lines of class, gender, race and sexuality.

Useful for: Looking at gender roles, representation and black/white relations in hip hop culture, lyrics, music videos and film.

Outlaw Culture: Resisting Representations

bell hooks (Routledge, 1994)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1950192>

Shelf: GE.1/HOO

Summary: As with her other books, bell hooks offers here an attack on the racism that exists within the predominantly white, middle-class feminist movement, while also intervening in the work of pop-cultural icons in the music and film industries. This book takes the form of a collection of essays, featuring discussions on race, gender, violence, sexism and capitalism.

Useful for: Gaining an intersectional feminist understanding of several issues within various aspects of popular culture. Relevant to research on racism and sexism in hip hop music, art and culture.

New Black Man (10th Anniversary Edition)

Mark Anthony Neal (Routledge, 2015)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2620249>

Shelf: CU.4.01/NEA

Summary: An example of scholarly activism, this book is highly significant in its proposal of a 'new black man', who embraces feminism and combats homophobia. The 'new black man' suggested by leading cultural scholar Neal has strengths residing in family, community, and diversity, and this book tackles the issues that run alongside these – American culture, feminism, queer identity, black fatherhood and more.

Useful for: Understanding the importance of feminism in masculinity as well as femininity, and applying this to the masculinity that exists in hip hop culture – which is often thought to be misogynistic and oppressive towards women and homosexuals.

Black Film Studies**Representing: Hip Hop Culture and the Production of Black Cinema**

S. Craig Watkins (The University of Chicago Press, 1998)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2588593>

Shelf: AR.9.01/WAT

Summary: An exploration of hip hop culture and black filmmaking, and the relationship between the two. A leading media sociologist, Watkins provides a deep insight into Spike Lee and 'ghettocentric' ghetto action films, while also commenting on the state of the 'culture wars' in the US, including the effects of capitalism, social conservatism and black youth.

Use for: Exploring the subject of film, specifically black filmmaking. Useful in conjunction with other texts on Spike Lee for a broader exploration of his importance as a black filmmaker within the wider context of race in the US. The epilogue is entitled 'The Culture Industry and the Hip Hop Generation', which is useful for a hip hop context within the study of film.

The Spike Lee Reader

Paula J. Massood (ed.) (Temple University Press, 2007)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=2618195>

Shelf: AR.9.01/MAS

Summary: A comprehensive collection of essays analysing the work of one of Hollywood's most recognisable and influential film directors. Spike Lee's films often centre on depictions of race, class and gender relations, and several are heavily influenced by hip hop culture in their visual and musical elements.

Useful for: Studying Spike Lee's films as primary hip hop text and aesthetic, and analysing race/class/gender in black cinema.

Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing

Mark A. Reid, ed. (Cambridge University Press, 1997)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1866180>

Shelf: 791.4375Le (Reference Library (4th floor))

Summary: This book features several essays which analyse Lee's controversial film *Do the Right Thing* from a variety of methodological perspectives. Among the issues examined are the production history of the film, the race-representational politics, the hybrid use of music, and the urban sociology of New York in the 1980s/90s.

Useful for: Using Spike Lee as an example of an auteurist film director who is influenced by hip hop culture and understanding the connections between film and hip hop. Thinking about race and political engagement through film and hip hop culture.

Spike Lee's America

David Sterritt (Polity Press, 2013)

<https://manchester.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?BRN=1048789>

Shelf: AR.9.01/STE

Summary: A study of Spike Lee's influential work through the lenses of race, gender and class. This book acknowledges and examines Lee's ability to pose controversial, troubling questions about the social and political state of America, without providing any simple answers or solutions. Also provides a full filmography of Spike Lee.

Useful for: Studying Spike Lee or his films as a focal point or part of an essay, learning details of his filmmaking.

Hip Hop Lesson Plans

Hip hop education is a growing movement in UK and American schools, using hip hop culture, especially rap songs and lyrics, to teach a wide variety of subjects. Hip hop is a powerful tool for education, not simply because of its popularity, but because it explores issues of social justice, culture, power and identity, and allows these issues to be discussed in the classroom in a way that is relevant to young people.

These lesson plans have been produced by students of Hip Hop Studies from the University of Manchester, working in partnership with local high schools. Most use verse and video as text and use these to open out to address different school subjects, including Literature, History, Sociology and Geography.

English Literature and Language

Representations of Love

Ronke Ayoola

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38231>

The topic for this literature lesson is love. The lesson examines the varied representations of love through the lens of hip hop literature, specifically Biz Markie's 'Just a friend' and Mary J. Blige's 'Be Without You'.

Analyse Eve's 'Love is Blind'

Amarah Baig

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38246>

The lesson helps students analyse Eve's "Love is Blind" with a particular focus on the theme of love. It incorporates Marc Lamont Hill's approach to the use of hip hop in the classroom.

Discourses of Love between Gangster Rap and Conscious Rap

Damali Eastmond-Scott

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38234>

Learn how to compare and contrast how the discourse of love and relationships are conveyed in both gangster rap and conscious rap. Be able to understand the differences in style and culture between these two sub-genres and have the ability to explore the issues of identifying genre using Daniel Chandler's theory.

A comparison of rap verses that exhibit the use of various poetic metres with poems that use the same metre

Conagh Murphy

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38253>

Students will be able to recognise the metre in rap verses as well as poems. Students will understand why metre is important and how it is used in hip hop and poetry. Students will attempt to write their own short verse in iambic or anapaestic metre.

Case study of 'Memory Lane (Sittin' in da Park)' by Nas

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38237>

This lesson presents several thematic questions to the class instead of just one, due to the nature of the song. The aim will be for the students to be able to mix close reading of the text's literary techniques with its historical context.

Figurative Speech in English Literature

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38248>

This lesson hopes to give students the ability to understand and recognize the use of figurative language within a text, to appreciate the power of descriptive literary techniques, and to be able to critically engage with texts. There will be a principal focus on similes and metaphors, as both are abundant in hip hop lyrics.

Representation of Money and Wealth in Two Hip Hop Tracks

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38241>

This hip-hop based lesson will focus on the representation of money and wealth in two tracks by two influential artists, Kendrick Lamar and Jay Z. The lesson is concerned with developing analytical, comparative and interpretive literary techniques through discussion of the two texts.

The Portrayal of Love and Sexual Relationships in Hip Hop versus Roman Poetry

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38242>

This lesson intends to examine some of the parallels between love and sexual relationships in classical Roman poetry and contemporary rap music, using the case studies of rapper Wiki and poet Ovid. The lesson serves the purpose of developing close-reading skills, improving the understanding of how context can impact art and ease anxieties around the topics of love and sex.

Disrupting Expectations of Hip Hop Through Analysis of 'The River' by Atmosphere

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38251>

Through an analytical comparison of 'The River' by Atmosphere and a soliloquy from Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', this lesson hopes to disrupt preconceived notions about what hip hop is or should be about. By relating these two texts it hopes to break

down the divide between canonical prose and hip hop, and analyse the themes, imagery and language use in both.

Portrayals of Incarceration in Hip Hop

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38244>

This lesson is focused on the theme of incarceration in two texts, 'One Love' by Nas, and 'Up North Trip' by Mobb Deep. The lesson is designed to have students critically analyse literary techniques and concepts from each text, and then go on to identify, analyse and ultimately compare and contrast the key themes and ideas present.

History

Race and Inequality

Hattie Charnley Shaw

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38233>

Students should gain a significant understanding of black US history and the achievements of black historical figures. They should learn to analyse the use of history in the lyrics of hip hop tracks, understand the relevance of black history in modern American society, and to be able to identify contemporary aspects of racial inequality through the themes of hip hop.

Hip Hop and 1980s America

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38243>

This lesson will cover the social impact of President Reagan's domestic policies for African Americans. It hopes to ensure an understanding of 'Reaganomics' and its impact and 'rugged individualism' and its limitations through literary analysis of tracks by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five and Eric B. and Rakim.

The Presidency of George W. Bush from a Hip Hop Perspective

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38249>

This lesson assesses the presidency of George W. Bush, his legacy, and his actions in relation to Hurricane Katrina from the perspective of hip hop artists. The lesson plan includes a powerpoint which would be used to teach the lesson, featuring the images, quotes, and music from several hip hop artists.

The History of Post-Civil Rights, Racism and Discrimination through the Lens of Hip Hop

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38250>

This class will encourage students to interrogate the racial dynamics of the United States from post-civil rights to contemporary America through the lens of hip hop texts. Students will examine the term post-racial in alignment with hip hop texts to

explore both racial issues that define American society after the civil rights movement, and to discuss whether the United States is moving toward a post-racial society.

Geography

Hip Hop and Geography

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38240>

This lesson allows students to investigate and question the two-dimensional nature of statistical case studies relating to urban spaces. It also hopes to give students an understanding of how space and resources are racially organised, using examples such as 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air' and 'Boyz N the Hood'.

Sociology

'Protest' - Verbal and Physical Conflict

Isobel Trott

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38238>

Students will engage in a close analysis of the texts and develop an awareness of the literary techniques employed. They will use Mos Def's 'Mathematics' to bridge a link between rap's emphasis on lyrical technique and skill, the literary techniques used, and the wider contextual issues: protest, violence, police and prisons. Verbal battles and expressing lyrical skill is common in rap dialogue: students are encouraged to extend analysis to draw parallels between this and the context.

Women in Hip Hop: Queen Bee?

Alison Liu

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38236>

This lesson will focus on analysis of the lyrics and music video of well-known female artist Beyoncé, to consider the role of women in hip hop culture. Students will discuss the effects of these portrayals of women on young audiences and explore connections between how gender is portrayed in contemporary hip hop culture and the position of women of colour in wider society.

Racism, Masculinity and Inter-Racial Love in Public Enemy's 'Fear of a Black Planet'

Libby Turner

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38239>

The aims of this lesson are to understand the significance of 'super-predator' as a historically, culturally and socially constructed label. Students should also be able to identify evidence from 'Fear of a Black Planet' that discusses this stereotype in

relation to inter-racial love and assess the utility of the track as a form of social critique. Is 'Fear of a Black Planet' an effective way to talk about race relations?

Hip Hop and Social Development: Stereotypes and the Construction of Identity

Alexander Boulding

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38232>

The lesson aims to build students' awareness of how stereotypes are constructed and permeate both individual and group identification.

Sexism and Gender in Lauryn Hill's track 'Doo Wop (That Thing)'

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=38245>

The lesson will focus on Lauryn Hill's track and video 'Doo Wop (That Thing)' to explore sexism and gender within hip hop, encouraging students to look at issues of self-esteem, identity and relationships and to develop their critical media literacy in relation to sex and gender. It will involve close reading and discussion to cover several themes surrounding how women are portrayed.

Further Reading

JSTOR (<https://www.jstor.org/>) is a digital library for browsing scholarly material (journals, academic ebooks, primary sources) on just about anything. Some material is open access, some material requires an institutional log in, or there is an option to pay for access for those who are not members of a higher education institution. Below is a selection of key open access and restricted access articles from JSTOR, and other online resources.

Open Access Articles

Introduction: Hip-Hop Cinema as a Lens of Contemporary Black Realities

Regina N. Bradley, *Black Camera*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (2017), pp. 141-145

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The Stage Hip-Hop Feminism Built: A New Directions Essay

Aisha Durham, Brittney C. Cooper and Susana M. Morris, *Signs*, Vol. 38, No. 3 (2013), pp. 721-737

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/668843>

Hip-Hop Literature: The Politics, Poetics, and Power of Hip-Hop in the English Classroom

Lauren Leigh Kelly, *The English Journal*, Vol. 102, No. 5 (2013), pp. 51-56

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Post-Pomo Hip-Hop Homos: Hip-Hop Art, Gay Rappers, and Social Change

D. Mark Wilson, *Social Justice*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (2007), pp. 117-140

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Other Online Resources

Left of Black

<http://leftofblack.tumblr.com/>

Left of Black is a long-standing, weekly webcast hosted by Duke University Professor Mark Anthony Neal and produced by the John Hope Franklin Center of International and Interdisciplinary Studies at Duke University. It covers hip hop content amongst other contemporary Black Studies themes.

HipHop Ed UK

<https://ukhiphopedblog.wordpress.com/>

#HipHopEd is an approach to education and youth development that is rooted in identifying and building upon the intellectual abilities exemplified within hip hop music and pedagogy. The blog contains a range of articles and resources from educators committed to continued improvement of the educational experiences of UK youth.

HipHop Ed US

<http://hiphoped.com/>

#HipHopEd began as an online twitter chat where educators discussed the intersections of hip hop and education but has grown into a non-profit organization that focuses on bridging the gap between theory and practice through the development and implementation of hip-hop based interventions in STEM, therapy, literacy and school leadership.

European Hip Hop Studies Network

<https://europeanhiphopstudiesnetwork.wordpress.com/>

The European Hip Hop Studies Network was founded in March 2018. It is dedicated to fostering Hip Hop Studies research, exchange, and collaboration between researchers, artists and activists across Europe.

UK Journal of Hip Hop Studies

<https://ukjhhs.wordpress.com/>

The UK Journal of Hip Hop Studies was formed in response to a need for a regular publication in a rapidly expanding area of study in British academia. It is composed of peer-reviewed articles and book reviews with an emphasis on British and Irish subject matter, postgraduate and early-career authors, and an interdisciplinary Humanities approach to hip hop.

The Journal for Hip Hop Studies (JHHS)

<http://jhhsonline.org/>

The Journal for Hip Hop Studies (JHHS) publishes critically engaged, culturally relevant, and astute analyses of hip hop. Publications emphasize hip hop's relationship to race, ethnicity, nationalism, class, gender, sexuality, justice and equality, politics, communication, religion, and popular culture.

Rap on Trial

<http://endrapontrial.org/>

Rap on Trial is a US-based project led by Professor Charis E. Kubrin of University of California, that aims to research and challenge the increasing practice of using rap lyrics as evidence in criminal trials.

Prosecuting Rap

<https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/american-studies/research/projects/prosecuting-rap/>

Prosecuting Rap is a developing UK project led by Dr Eithne Quinn of University of Manchester, which aims to explore and contest the rising use of rap lyrics and videos as evidence in UK courtrooms.

Young Identity

<https://youngidentity.org/>

Young Identity is a spoken word collective based in Manchester, delivering poetry and spoken word workshops in art venues, schools and the community. They meet regularly and work with writers aged 13-25 years old.

Jeffrey Boakye blog

<https://unseenflirtspetry.wordpress.com/>

Jeffrey Boakye is a high school teacher and leading figure in the Hip Hop Ed movement in the UK. Read his blog on hip hop pedagogy, with a strong focus on grime and the classroom.

Related Collections

UK Hip Hop Archives Project

<https://www.facebook.com/UKHipHopArchives/>

A project to bring together hip hop heritage material from across the UK, led by Martin Jones of the Zulu Dawn Collection at Dudley Archives (see below).

Zulu Dawn / Hip Hop Heritage Collection at Dudley Archives

http://blackcountryhistory.org/collections/getrecord/GB145_DZD/

Images of early hip hop in the UK, 1983-90, from Martin Jones's collection - featuring rappers, graffiti artists, breakdancers and bodypopers, DJs. Not available digitally.

Cornell Hip Hop Collection

<http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/hiphop/>

Cornell's Hip Hop Collection is a research archive of original artefacts, images, and sound recordings documenting the birth and spread of hip hop culture in the US. The Collection currently features more than 15,000 items and is growing.

Hiphop Archive and Research Institute at Harvard

<http://hiphoparchive.org/>

The Hiphop Archive and Research Institute serves to organize and develop collections, initiate and participate in research activities, sponsor events and acquire material culture associated with hip hop in the U.S. and throughout the world.

NOLA Hip Hop and Bounce Archive at Tulane University

<https://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane:p16313coll68>

A collection of photographs, ephemera and oral history interviews with leading hip hop and bounce artists from New Orleans.

Glossary of Hip Hop Vocabulary

Below are the definitions of terms that are commonly found in both hip hop lyrics and scholarship on the genre.

B-boy/b-girl – a person who breakdances

Baller – a person who has money, respect and attention from women

Battle – a contest between rappers, in which they attempt to disrespect each other through their raps. The winner earns respect and recognition

Break Dancing – a style of street dance associated with hip hop

Cipher – an informal gathering of rappers, beatboxers, and/or breakdancers in a circle, in order to freestyle one after the other without interruption, exchanging rhymes and flows back and forth or around

Conscious Rap – a subgenre of hip hop that focuses on creating awareness of social issues through uplifting messages and smooth beats. It is based on the conviction that radical social change comes through knowledge of self and personal discovery

Crib – a person's living space

Deejay (DJ) – short for 'disc jockey', a person who uses vinyl records on turntables to create a range of sounds and pull together music samples. Rap music originated with DJs sampling records to make dance music

Discourse – different modes of communication (e.g., rituals, language, images, symbols) that are produced and circulated within and between different networks of communities and institutions such as media, government, schools, and hip hop. Often influenced by particular social, political, economic, and racialized contexts

Emcee (MC) – an artist who speaks rhythmic rap lyrics over hip hop or rap music

Freestyle – to improvise rap

Graffiti – a form of street art associated with hip hop. Artists usually use spray paint to decorate or sign their names in urban public places.

Homeboy/Homegirl/Homie – a friend or relative

'Hood – short for neighbourhood; usually used in reference to poorer neighbourhoods

Mix – to combine and manipulate music on turntables to produce hip hop tracks

OG (Original Gangster) – a person who has knowledge and experience of gang life and is respected by gang members

Player – someone who is successful in life, usually in regard to money, respect or sex

Rap – the form of vocal delivery most associated with hip hop music, usually involving rhyme and street vernacular spoken over a beat or music track.

Shorty – can refer to a child or younger person, or someone’s girlfriend/female friend.

Street Knowledge – a wisdom that comes from lived, urban experience; the shrewd awareness and resourcefulness needed for survival in inner city environments.

Text – any object in the public sphere that can produce meaning, for example, a track, film, performance, or a rapper’s image

Whip – a car

Word – a general greeting that can also mean ‘truth’ or ‘I agree’