

LIT 3400: Hip Hop and Young Adult Lit on the Gulf Coast

I. General Information

Class Meetings

- Fall 2025
- Tuesday | Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM) Matherly (MAT) 0117
- Thursday | Period 4 – 5 (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM) Turlington (TUR) 2303

Instructor

- Victor Del Hierro
- Turlington 4340
- Office Hours Monday 2:00-3:30pm and Thursdays 1:00-2:30pm
- vdelhierro@ufl.edu

Course Description

Over the last 50 years Hip Hop culture has grown from its humble South Bronx beginnings into a global force of music, dance, and art. Since its inception, Hip Hop has always been a voice for local communities to express their experiences and first-hand accounts of the spaces and places that they inhabit. Furthermore, these voices are often the voices of youth and young adults who are finding their voice as they tell their stories.

As Hip Hop culture has grown, the most prominent regional voice to emerge over the last 25 years is the area around the Gulf Coast. From Texas to Florida, Southern Hip Hop has emerged as the dominant voice and sound in rap music. In this course, we will explore Hip Hop's Third Coast through a young adult literature and rhetoric lens. Through the music of rap artists from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, this class will engage in a broad range of learning outcomes including deepening knowledge of the Gulf region from the perspective of Gulf coast artists and promoting intercultural competence as we engage with the broad perspectives that exist across the Gulf coast states. This course explores the cultural and entrepreneurial impact of Gulf Coast Hip Hop, examining artists like UGK, Master P, and T-Pain through a lens of regional identity, innovation, and resilience. Students will analyze music, mixtapes, and literature to uncover themes of community, environmental storytelling, and intercultural competence. This course is part of the Gulf Coast Scholars Program.

Course Goals

The primary goals of the course are to:

- Understand how rap music and Hip Hop culture exists in the Gulf Coast
- Understand the impact of the Gulf Coast on Hip Hop culture
- Learn to read, listen, and analyze rap music
- Identify stories in rap music that reflects the Gulf Coast

Required Readings and Works

- Materials and Supplies Fees: n/a
- Spotify Premium Subscription
- *Long Division* by Kiese Laymon
- Additional items will be available through Canvas or course reserves.

II. Graded Work

Overview:

Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap Assignment (15%)

Israel Jones Genius Annotation (15%)

One on One Conference with Dr. Del Hierro (10%)

Midterm – *Long Division* (20%)

Final Project – Gulf Coast Hip Hop Storymap (35%)

Description of Graded Work

I. Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap Assignment

Due: 09/03 11:59pm

Deliverable: >500 word

Point total: 150 points

II. Israel Jones Genius Annotation

Due: 11/23 11:59pm

Deliverable: Send Link from Genius Page

Point total: 150 Points

III. One on One Conference with Dr. Del Hierro

Due: Week 11

Deliverable: Meet with Dr. Del Hierro to discuss final project

Point total: 100 Points

IV. Midterm – *Long Division*

Due: 10/02

Deliverable: In Class Exam

Point total: 200 Points

IV. Final – Gulf Coast Hip Hop Storymap

Due: 12/09 11:59pm

Deliverable: Submit link to Storymap, uploaded to Assignments in Canvas
Final Paper: 350 Points

Grading Scale

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	94 – 100%		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

III. Weekly Schedule

Week 1 – Welcome
Week 2 – Introduction to Hip Hop Culture and Rap Music
Week 3 – How do we listen to rap?
Week 4 – Houston Hip Hop
Week 5 – New Orleans Hip Hop
Week 6 – Alabama and Mississippi Hip Hop
Week 7 – Hip Hop and Literature
Week 8 – Florida Gulf Coast Hip Hop
Week 9 – Hip Hop in Gainesville
Week 10 – Final Project Introduction
Week 11 – One on One Meetings Week
Week 12 – Preparing Final Project
Week 13 – Reflecting on Gulf Coast Hip Hop
Week 14 – Building a Canon of Gulf Coast Hip Hop
Week 15 – Thanksgiving Break
Week 16 – The Gulf Coast Scholars Program
Week 17 – Finals Week
Final Project Due: 12/09 11:59pm

VI. Required Policies

Course Policies (Borrowed from Dr. Marsha Bryant)

1. We need you to be present in class each week. (Contact me if there is an issue.)
2. We need your weekly participation.
3. You need to submit all assignments, including digital participation.
4. You should plan ahead to complete your assignments; first drafts should not be turned in drafts.
5. Paper Format for Proposal & Papers: Please use a 12 point font, 1-inch margins, and double spacing. Word documents please. I have a Mac and I do not want to see Pages. You get a free subscription to Word with your UF account.
6. If you plan on using artificial intelligence in your class work, please make sure you disclose this information on your assignment. I do not condone the use of a.i. but I leave the decision to you. In my course, all instances of a.i. should be written as I have stylized it. The only AI we acknowledge is Allen Iverson.

UF POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting

<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at

<https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

In-Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.