Course Title: **Introduction to Humanities: Hip Hop as Religion and Literature**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Prefix:</th>
<th>HUMA</th>
<th>Course No.:</th>
<th>1303</th>
<th>Section No.:</th>
<th>P11</th>
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</table>

Department of Languages & Communications  
Brailsford College of Arts & Sciences

**Instructor Name:** B Ray Crowell  
**Office Location:** Hilliard Hall - Comm Bldg 126  
**Office Phone:** 936.261.3712  
**Email Address:** brraycrowell@pvamu.edu  
**U.S. Postal Address:**  
Prairie View A&M University  
P.O. Box 519  
Mail Stop 2220  
Prairie View, TX 77446

**Office Hours:** Sat 11:50-12:50; 3:50-4:50

**Course Location:** Hilliard Hall - Comm Bldg 126  
**Class Days & Times:** Saturdays 12:00-1:00/3:30-4:30  
**Catalog Description:** (3-0) Credit 3 semester hours. An interdisciplinary, multi-perspective assessment of cultural, political, philosophical, and aesthetic factors critical to the formulation of values and the historical development of the individual and of society. A special emphasis will be placed on culture, art, film, theater, religion, and literature.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Required Text:**  
KRS One. *The Gospel of Hip Hop: The First Instrument*  
Shakur, Tupac, *The Rose That Grew From Concrete*

*Additional readings and films are listed in the syllabus and can be accessed via internet services (Amazon.com, IMB., etc..) or will be handouts.*

**Learning Resources:**  
PVAMU Library: [http://www.pvamu.edu/library](http://www.pvamu.edu/library)  

**Course Goals or Overview:**  
The goals of this course are to practice critical thinking, writing, and reading skills; practice identifying different perspectives on social issues; practice identifying various art forms; produce essays with strong purpose, content, and organization; produce critical writing based on analysis of primary and secondary source material; and start learning techniques for research and documentation in MLA format..

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

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**Core Curriculum Objective**
1. Explain and demonstrate the writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.

   Communication

2. Analyze and appropriately apply modes of expression, i.e. descriptive, expositive, argumentative and narrative in written and oral communication.

   Communication

3. Critically evaluate a variety of interdisciplinary texts and media, such as literature, film/tv, art, music, visual arts

   Critical Thinking

4. Apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.

   Critical Thinking

5. Employ effective teamwork skills with emphasis on listening, responding, and creating a positive climate.

   Teamwork

6. Cite research correctly according to MLA format, both in the text and in the bibliography.

   Personal Responsibility

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – Multiple choice examinations demonstrating mastery of course content

Essays – Formal essays demonstrating ability to produce college-level, research-based analytical writing

Prewriting Assignments – Assignments demonstrating engagement in writing as a recursive process

Presentation Assignment – Project demonstrating critical thinking and oral presentation skills.

Daily Work & Participation – Minor homework assignments, annotations, quizzes, and participation in class activities

GRADING MATRIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1: (750-1000 words)</td>
<td>10% 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Assignment</td>
<td>10% 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #2: (1000-1200 words)</td>
<td>15% 150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #3: (1200-1500 words)</td>
<td>15% 150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prewriting (scaffolding assignments, drafts, peer reviews, etc.)</td>
<td>10% 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work &amp; Participation (homework, annotations, quizzes, etc.)</td>
<td>20% 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20% 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100% 1000 points</td>
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GRADE DETERMINATION:

A = 90 to 100%
900 to 1000 points

B = 80 to 89%
800 to 899 points

C = 70 to 79%
700 to 799 points

D = 60 to 69%
600 to 699 points

F = 0 to 59%
0 to 599 points

Course Procedures

Formatting Documents: Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you’re using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in Rich Text Format (RTF). All essays must adhere to MLA formatting style 2016 (including 1-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font). MLA formatting guidelines can be accessed online at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Exam and Quiz Policy: The final exam should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations or essays will be allowed except under documented emergencies (see Student Handbook). If you have a university event on the day
of an exam, arrange to take it early. Pop quizzes are given throughout the semester over textbook readings and course concepts. If you are late or have an unexcused absence, you cannot make up a quiz. With an excused, documented absence, you may make up a quiz on the instructor’s schedule.

**Extra Credit Policy:** No extra credit will be available.

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**Detailed Description of Major Assignments:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Multiple choice examinations demonstrating mastery of course content</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>Formal essays demonstrating ability to produce college-level, research-based analytical writing. Essay #2: Rhetorical Analysis requires student to closely analyze the argumentative strategies employed within a substantial piece of writing. Essay #3: Research-Based Writing requires students to develop an evidence-based argument using academic and non-academic source material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prewriting Assignments</td>
<td>Assignments demonstrating engagement in writing as a recursive process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Assignment</td>
<td>Project demonstrating effective speaking skills and critical thinking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work &amp; Participation</td>
<td>Minor homework assignments, annotations, reflections, quizzes, and participation in class activities</td>
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**Semester Calendar**

**Week One (1/20): Course Introduction**

- Introduction to course
- Readings: Moody, Hutton, and Utley excerpts

**Week Two (1/27): The History and Spiritual Foundation of Hip Hop (Pre-Hip Hop)**

- Discuss prior readings
- Objectives for Essay #1:
  - Annotation reflection assignment

**Week Three (2/3): The History and Spiritual Foundation of Hip Hop (1980’s-90s)**

- Research topics due
- Discuss annotation reflections
- Review essay objectives/requirements

**Week Four (2/10): #Blessed: Hip Hop as a Secular Religious Construction (90’s-Present)**

- Essay #1 draft due in class printed
- Peer review of essay in class
- View: Bishop TD Jakes’s sermon “Favor Ain’t Fair”
- Readings: Bennett article, “Blessings”, “Truly Blessed”, “Extremely Blessed”
- Annotation Reflection
Week Five (2/17): #Blessed: Women’s Bodies as Offerings of Favor (90’s-Present)

- Essay #1 final draft due on turnitin.com
- View complimentary and supplementary videos
- Discussion of reading and annotation reflections
- Annotation reflection

Week Six (2/24): #Blessed: Money, Power, Protection and the Trap (90’s-Present)

- Discussion of reading and annotation reflections
- Discuss essay #2 topics
- Readings: Excerpts from There’s a God on the Mic, “Paid in Full”, excerpts from Nas’s God’s Son, “Rap God”
- Annotation Reflection

Week Seven (3/3): The Rapper as “God” and The Hip Hop Pantheon

- Discuss Essay #2 research
- Discussion of reading and annotation reflections

Week Eight (3/10): The Rapper as “God” and The Hip Hop Pantheon

- Essay #2 draft due
- Peer review
- Discussion of annotation reflections
- Review for Midterm Exam.
- Readings: Excerpts from Jeezy’s “Church in These Streets”, excerpts from the works of 21 Savage, Ugly God, Lil B
- Annotation Reflections

3/17 SPRING BREAK

Week Nine (3/24): The Rapper as “God” and The Hip Hop Pantheon

- Essay #2 due on turnitin.com
- Discuss annotation reflections
- Readings: Excerpts from The Rose That Grew From Concrete, Big Krit’s “Third Eye”, excerpts from The Gospel of Hip Hop
- Annotation reflections

Week Ten (3/31): Hip Hop as Scripture and Literature

- Discussion of annotation reflections
- Discussion of essay #3 research topics
- Presentation assignment: Annotation of student selected hip hop lyrics as scripture/literature

Week Eleven (4/7): Hip Hop as Scripture and Literature
• Continue presentation of student selections and annotations
• Continue research discussions

Week Twelve (4/14): Future Projections of Hip Hop Spirituality and Culture
• Detailed outline of Essay #3 draft due
• Speaker Panel: TBA

Week Thirteen (4/21): Future Projections of Hip Hop Spirituality and Culture
• Essay #3 Draft Due
• Thanksgiving recess- University closed

Week Fourteen (4/28): Final Essay Workshops
• Student Conferences

Week Fifteen (5/5): Final Exam
• Final essay due on turnitin.com

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library
The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. [https://www.pvamu.edu/library/](https://www.pvamu.edu/library/) Phone: 936-261-1500

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)
The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)
The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by
providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

**Writing Center**
The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking online courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

**Student Counseling Services**
The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

**Testing**
The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other services such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

**Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services**
As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

**Veteran Affairs**
Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

**Office for Student Engagement**
The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

**Career Services**
Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

**University Rules and Procedures**
Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Title IX Statement
Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular
semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University’s attendance policy in each course syllabus.

**Student Academic Appeals Process**
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

**Taskstream**
Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One of your assignments will be considered an “artifact,” an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. Taskstream also allows students to electronically post documents that can be used to create an electronic portfolio for future employment or educational endeavors. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link marked with a green puzzle piece in eCourses.

**Additional Instructor Policies**

**Classroom Management Policies:**
1. No cell phones or personal electronic devices are to be turned on during class time. A student violating this policy may be asked to leave the classroom and receive an “absence” for the session.
2. Laptop computers may only be used by permission of the professor during specific assignments in class.
3. Appropriate classroom attire is expected.
4. Appropriate behavior (seating, language, etc.) and respect of others’ opinions are expected.
5. Students are expected to attend class on time and be prepared with assigned materials.
6. Students are not to leave class prior to dismissal by the instructor, except in an emergency.
7. To participate in a discussion, students are expected to raise their hands to be recognized by the speaker.
8. When entering the classroom once the session has begun, students are to wait at the door until recognized and given permission to enter by the speaker. Then students are to enter quietly and take seats nearest the door. Do not walk in front of a speaker.
9. No eating or drinking in classroom.
10. No hair combing, makeup/lotion application, or other hygiene-care actions in classroom.