## MUS 485/585 Hip Hop Unit Plan Thies – Spring 2021

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**Grade Level: High School** 

Title of Unit Plan: Hip Hop Unit

GENERAL MUSIC: Assume that students have music twice a week for 40 minute.

Week	Concepts	Skills	Activities	California Music Standards	Assessment Strategies
1	History Cultural Context Style & Genre	Listening Respond/Co nnect	<ul> <li>Students listen &amp; watch music videos of different hip hop &amp; rap performances by a range of various artists across the years.         <ul> <li>Students will observe the evolution of hip hop &amp; rap from its origins to now.</li> <li>Students take notes on the different styles &amp; rapping patterns of different artists, comparing &amp; contrasting lyrical content, flow, subject matter, and timbre/texture of the music.</li> <li>Brief discussion after every video talking about similarities, differences, &amp; stylistic observations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Meeting 2         <ul> <li>Students will split off into groups of 2-3 students.</li> <li>These will be the same groups for all group work for the rest of this unit.</li> <li>Students will be asked to come up with a duo/trio name by the project submission deadline, most clever or iconic name will receive bonus points.</li> <li>Teacher introduces the unit project.</li> <li>Show students examples of past student projects, such as "The Sneetches" by The Dynamic Duo &amp; the "Three Little Pigs" rap.</li> <li>Ask groups to brainstorm ideas for creation of their rap.</li> <li>Students start considering what source material they plan to use for the project.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	T.Cn11 (relate)	Meeting 1  Discussion after each video gives teacher chance to assess each student's understanding based on their discussions.  Meeting 2  Ticket out of class is each group's decided style/influences for their project, so teacher can see they are starting progress on their rap.

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			<ul> <li>They are allowed to write an original rap, revise a children's book, reflavor a poem, or take any piece of literature or pre-written material &amp; begin to draft. Their final rap may either be performed live along with their backing track, or they may pre-record the whole project.</li> <li>Students must have at least one artist's style that they want to emulate in some way.</li> <li>Ticket out of class for each group will be that group's decided "style" &amp; "influences" (i.e. Kendrick Lamar, Anderson .Paak, Migos, etc.) &amp; a relative direction for their project (old-school rap, mumble rap, hip hop anthem, etc.).</li> </ul>		
2	Form	Chanting/Ra	Meeting 1	E.Cr1	Meeting 1
	Rhythm Melody Harmony Texture Timbre	pping Singing	<ul> <li>Students watch <u>LKR videos</u> on how to rap &amp; practice rapping.         <ul> <li>They will learn about form, rhythm, melody, accompaniment/harmony/texture, tone/timbre in basic terms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>After watching the videos, students will do a 5 minute free write where they are free to write whatever comes to their mind (rhymes, ideas, frustrations, motivations, etc.).         <ul> <li>Students will then go to their pairs/trios.</li> <li>Each group will be given a backing track &amp; experiment with assembling some ideas in their free writes together &amp; shaping them to fit their backing tracks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	(imagine)	30-60 second performances from each group allow teacher to assess students' understanding of the LKR videos & see students' creativity.  Meeting 2      Discussion at end of class will give teacher insight into what students liked,

			<ul> <li>Last 10 minutes of class will be dedicated to 30-60 second performances from each group followed by peer praise and encouragement.</li> <li>Meeting 2</li> <li>Class will participate in a station exercise.</li> <li>There will be a number of stations set up around the room equivalent to the number of groups in the class.</li> </ul>		what they had trouble with, & how their creative process is coming along.
			<ul> <li>Each station will have a different source material, such as relevant poems the students are learning in English class &amp; different backing tracks (variation in meter &amp; style across backing tracks throughout stations).</li> <li>Students will spend an equivalent amount of time at each station coming up with different ways to "modernize" the text &amp; rap &amp; perform it. This session is very trial &amp; error based &amp; creativity/experimentation is encouraged.</li> <li>Near the end of the session the class will get together &amp; each group will share their favorite backing track, favorite source text, &amp; a few ways that they went about coming up with their "flow" for each text &amp; "modernizing" the lyrics if they so chose to. If there is time, a group may elect to perform 30 seconds or</li> </ul>		
	<u> </u>		so of their rap for extra credit.		
3	Soundtrap	Manipulatin g Technology Creating	Meeting 1  ■ Introduction to Soundtrap (students follow along while teacher demonstrates).  ○ Tracks, instruments, & tempo  ■ Adding tracks, choosing instruments, setting tempo  ○ Inputting & recording  ■ How to use drum pad/keyboard/MIDI instruments, how to record using microphone  ○ Looping, copying & pasting  ■ How to set one section as a loop, how to copy/paste/manipulate material to continue adding to backing track  ○ Quantizing & effects	T.Cr1 (imagine)	<ul> <li>Teacher can assess students' understanding when they follow along &amp; ask questions during the Soundtrap tutorial.</li> <li>When going around to each group, the teacher can assess students' understanding on a</li> </ul>

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- How to quantize tracks to be in time, how to add effects/filters/modulations
- For the remainder of class, students will meet in their groups to do their own experimentation with Soundtrap & further develop ideas for their project.
  - O Teacher goes around to each group helping with the technology & answering any questions the students have.
- At the end of class, teacher will remind students to solidify their source material & have it decided by the next class meeting.

### Meeting 2

- Source material due at the beginning of class so that teachers can look over students' choices & make sure they are appropriate. During this time students will have more time to brainstorm the lyrical side of their project and start to get their Soundtrap files created.
  - At the end of class any students that did not pass source material approval must have an alternative by the next class period.
- Teacher will demonstrate creating 2-3 backing tracks in different styles on Soundtrap while each group follows along & replicates the same tracks on their computer.
  - O This will show students more of the different options they have on Soundtrap.
  - O This activity will also provide them with ideas of how to vary the beat during different parts of the backing track to give their rap a structured form.
  - o Encourages students to give suggestions as to what should be done next as the track is being created.
    - Each track will have a teacher-written section that students are asked to replicate and a student-written section that students must create themselves. The student-written section must be in a similar style and use the same instruments as a base, but other than that students may add different instruments for

more individual basis.

### Meeting 2

- Source material being turned in allows teacher to assess students' progress on planning their project, as well as make sure they have picked appropriate source material.
- The students will be collaborating together with the teacher during the demonstration of creating backing tracks, so the students' suggestions & comments are a way for the teacher to assess their understanding.
- When going around to each group, the teacher can assess students' understanding & progress on a more individual basis.

			texture. During this creation phase, teacher will go from group to group to assess & observe student creativity.  • After demonstration students will have the remainder of class to experiment with Soundtrap on their own in their groups, if time permits.  • Teacher will again go around to each group helping with the technology & answering any questions the students may have.		
4	Creating Raps	Creating Critiquing/E valuating	<ul> <li>Students will have the entire class period to work on their raps and have peer to peer collaboration.         <ul> <li>Teacher goes around to each group checking in &amp; giving minimal feedback/potential suggestions to issues students may have.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Meeting 2         <ul> <li>First part of class period students will provide each other with positive, constructive peer feedback and suggestions.</li> <li>Each group will pair up with another group &amp; play what they have so far for each other.</li> </ul> </li> <li>After peer feedback students will have the rest of the class to continue creating/refining their raps.         <ul> <li>Teacher goes around to each group checking in with minimal feedback this time. This process is extremely student-driven at this point.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	T.Cr2 (plan & make) T.Cr3.1 (evaluate & refine)	<ul> <li>Meeting 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>When going around to each group, the teacher can assess students' progress.</li> </ul>
5	Expression	Performing Listening Critiquing/E valuating Respond/Co nnect	<ul> <li>Meeting 1</li> <li>Students put the finishing touches on their backing tracks &amp; rehearse or record their performances.</li> <li>Teacher goes around to each group again giving feedback.</li> <li>Meeting 2</li> <li>Rap Concert</li> <li>After each group performs their rap or plays their recording, students will give peer praise/comments.</li> </ul>	T.Cr3.2 (present)	Meeting 1  • When going around to each group, the teacher can assess students' progress.  Meeting 2  • Final performance/prese ntation of projects

	Three things that they really enjoyed and one thing that	serves as final
	they feel like they could have done better.	assessment.
		<ul> <li>Students' comments</li> </ul>
		to their peers also
		allow the teacher to
		assess their
		understanding.