



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

LING 227  
 Rap Linguistics  
 Winter 2020  
 TR 11:00–12:15 in ST-147  
<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/442262760>

**COURSE OUTLINE – REVISED MARCH 2020**

<b>INSTRUCTOR’S NAME:</b>	Darin Flynn	<a href="https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/217931767">https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/217931767</a>
<b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b>	<del>CHC-116</del>	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> TR 9:00–10:00 or by appointment
<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b>	403-220-6110	<b>E-Mail:</b> dflynn@ucalgary.ca
<b>Teaching assistant:</b>	B. Mcdonald	<b>Office hour:</b> By appointment
<b>Meeting office:</b>	CHC 102	<b>Email:</b> brittany.mcdonald@ucalgary.ca

**DESCRIPTION**  
 “The leading music genre known as rap is dominated by language. This course explores how this creatively flourishing art-form relates to language science. An examination of the manipulation of sounds, words, grammar, and meaning in rap, and what it reveals about language in the mind and in society.” (Calendar)

**OBJECTIVES**  
 Students should be able to identify frequent forms of rhythm (e.g., amphibrachic) and rhyme (e.g., “open o” assonance); salient features of nonstandard grammar (e.g., copula absence), lexicon (e.g., *n!gga*), and pronunciation (e.g., *pin-pen* merger); core meaning phenomena — literal (e.g., antonymy) and figurative (e.g., metaphor); rhetorical devices (e.g. epistrophe); and psycholinguistic mechanisms (e.g., priming). Students should also be able to discuss how such linguistic features and mechanisms may contribute to the popularity of emcees and their songs.

**OUTCOMES**  
 A broad understanding of how language works contributes to an appreciation of rap music, and vice versa. For instance, studying how words vary in pronunciation and prominence helps to understand how emcees create distinct “flows,” and studying the latter helps to understand how language works. Similarly, examining how emcees manipulate sounds and meanings in their wordplay and storytelling can improve appreciation and understanding of how language is constituted and “done.”

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Homework:	Exams:
- 20 examples x 1%: 20%	- Midterm (in class Feb. 25): 20%
- 2 assignments x 15% (Feb. 11, Mar. 26): 30%	- Final (Apr. 18–29): 30%

**GRADING SCALE** (take-home exam; available in Dropbox on Apr. 15, due on Apr. 22)

Course grades will be assigned on a distribution that is NOT more restrictive than the one below:

A+ 97-100%	B+ 84-88%	C+ 69-73%	D+ 54-58%
A 93-96%	B 79-83%	C 64-68%	D 50-53%
A- 89-92%	B- 74-78%	C- 59-63%	F 0-49%

- REQUIRED TEXTS**
- *Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop*, by Adam Bradley (Basic Books, 2017)



## Faculty of Arts

### School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

- \$22.49 at UofC Bookstore (cheaper/used 2009 version ok, but not ideal)

#### RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- *How to Rap: The Art & Science of the Hip-Hop MC*, by Paul Edwards (Chicago RP, 2009)
  - \$13.95 at UofC Bookstore
- *How to Rap: Advanced Flow and Delivery Techniques*, by Paul Edwards (Chicago RP, 2012)
  - \$13.95 at UofC Bookstore

#### COURSE NOTES

**CONTENT WARNING:** There is strong language and content in rap music and therefore in this course. Students are free to be offended, but any student who cannot manage this intrinsic aspect of the course is encouraged to drop the course early, to make way for students on the waiting list.

**ATTENDANCE:** Adams and Edwards's books are great, but only go so far. There is no textbook in rap linguistics per se. So the real work of correlating rap and linguistics will take place in class (and in homework). Lectures notes will be available on D2L at class time and may be revised between lectures, based on class discussions. However, lecture notes will be in point form only and may omit certain details and examples presented in class. Moreover, there will be in-class practice exercises. Students should therefore make every effort to attend classes on time to avoid missing material and practice that might be crucial to homework and exams.

**EXAMPLES:** Each student is expected to share—on twenty occasions—a striking example from a rap song of something discussed in class, using the Discussion section of D2L. The forum to submit an example will be posted on D2L shortly after each lecture. The deadline for submitting an example is 8 PM of the following day. [Late submissions are permitted Mar. 12 – Apr. 19.] A few examples from students will be presented at the beginning of the following lecture as recap.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be two exercise assignments given out as part of this course, worth 15% each. You will be given at least ten days to complete each assignment. These assignments will be described in detail when they are handed out. [Assignment 2 may be submitted up to two weeks late, on Apr. 9]

**EXAMS:** There will be both a midterm worth 20% and a final exam worth 30%. The final exam is cumulative, but it will focus on topics and material covered in the second half of the class. Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of dire, documented medical emergencies. The midterm exam will take place during class time on Tuesday, Feb. 25. The registrar-scheduled final exam will take place during April 18–29 (inclusive). The final exam is cumulative, covering all topics covered throughout the course. A review will be held in-class during the last lecture on April 14. The final will be a take-home exam, available in Dropbox on April 15 and due on April 22.

#### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."



## Faculty of Arts

### School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.



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In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.