

98-303 Syllabus: Introduction to Freestyle Rap

Course Website: <https://cmucyphers.wixsite.com/introtofreestylrap>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IntroToFreestyleRapS19/>

Overview

Kendrick Lamar. Emily Dickinson. Lil Pump. All three are impressive, yet their combined talents pale in comparison to the might of the next lyrical prodigy: You. What they attempt on paper, you will learn to do anytime, anywhere, using the strongest weapon of all: your brain. We'll start with basic rhymes, and staying on beat to help you find your voice, and slowly progress to more advanced topics such as internal rhyme, complex wordplay, and rhythmic patterns. Stick with us, and we'll turn your candy raps to certified gold bars, fresh from the forge.

But first you must answer this very important question: Can you count to 4? If so, then we can teach you how to freestyle rap! No matter your skill level or hip-hop background, we can help you hone your talents and have a blast doing it. Everyone is a freestyler, they just don't know it yet.

Classes

Lectures take place every Tuesday at 6:30pm, in Posner Hall 151. Each class consists of approximately 20 minutes of lecturing, mixed with around 30 minutes of guided practice on the topics discussed that day.

Homework

Homework will be assigned every week to further your skills. You will need to submit these assignments during one of the office hours listed below. To check for homework refer to the lecture slides by going to the [website](#) > clicking on Learn > any of the topics listed > then the lecture name (or title) when you are on the lecture's webpage.

If you want to be able to freestyle well by the end of the semester, you should plan on spending at least 2 additional hours per week practicing (don't worry - this can be done in the shower, walking to class, etc., so it won't get in the way of your other schoolwork). Each homework is designed to help learn the skill, so doing all of them is necessary.

Grading

This class is pass/fail. Anyone with at least 65 points by the end of the semester will pass. Attendance and homework are worth a combined 50 points, the midterm is worth up to 15 points, and the final project is worth up to 35. The midterm will be a freestyle in front of the instructors, and the final project will be to perform a live group cypher in front of a larger audience. **By Stu-Co College Policy, 3 unexcused absences default in an automatic FAILURE.**

Office Hours & Other Opportunities

Everyday, at least one instructor or TA will hold office hours to help you improve your freestyling ability. Times and locations will be announced on a week-by-week basis. If you are looking for a group to practice, CMU Cyphers meets every Friday from 4:30-6:30 PM. Cyphers is a great

low-stress environment where you can hone your skills, meet other freestyle rappers, and witness some dope bars (some of the instructors will be there).

To contact us, message CMU Cyphers on Facebook or email us:

Instructors

Oliver Liburd - ocl@andrew.cmu.edu

Eduardo Flores - josegonz@andrew.cmu.edu

TAs

Kathryn Bregna - kbregna@andrew.cmu.edu

Uni Hunte - khunte@andrew.cmu.edu

Michelle Wiedmann - mwiedman@andrew.cmu.edu

Taruna Emani - temani@andrew.cmu.edu

Office Hours (To Turn In Homework)

| | Where | When | Staff |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Monday | Porter Hall A18C | 5:30 - 6:30 pm | Uni Hunte |
| Tuesday | -- | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | Anyone |
| Wednesday | Porter Hall A18C | 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Taruna Emani |
| Thursday | Porter Hall A19A | 3:30 - 4:30 pm | Michelle Wiedmann |
| Friday | Porter Hall A19 | 1:30 - 2:30 pm | Oliver Liburd |
| Saturday | Porter Hall A19 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm | Eduardo Flores |
| Sunday | Porter Hall A18C | 2:00 - 3:00 pm | Kathryn Bregna |

Schedule

| Date | Week Number | Lesson | HW |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 01/15/19 | 1 | Flow I | Check the slides |
| 01/22/19 | 2 | Rhyme I | Check the slides |
| 01/29/19 | 3 | Sentence Construction I | Check the slides |
| 02/05/19 | 4 | Delivery I | Check the slides |
| 02/12/19 | 5 | Sentence Construction II | Check the slides |
| 02/19/19 | 6 | Rhyme II | Check the slides |
| 02/26/19 | 7 | Delivery II | Check the slides |
| 03/05/19 | 8 | Midterm | Check the slides |
| 03/12/19 | 9 | Flow II | Check the slides |
| 03/19/19 | 10 | The Art of The Cypher | Check the slides |
| 03/26/19 | 11 | Rhyme III | Check the slides |
| 04/02/19 | 12 | Flow III | Check the slides |
| 04/09/19 | 13 | Sentence Construction III | Check the slides |
| 04/16/19 | 14 | Delivery III | Check the slides |
| 04/23/19 | 15 | Final | N/A |

The schedule and dates are subject to change.