Hip Hop History and Culture

Hunter College AFPRL 290.26

Foundations of Hip Hop

Notes from Danny Hoch’s “Toward a Hip Hop Aesthetic”
Hip Hop Elements:

- Graffiti
- DJ-ing
- B-Boying / breakdancing
- Rap (MC-ing)
- (Knowledge)
Hip Hop conditions

• African / Caribbean storytelling/ art
• Polycultural immigrant/ migrant community,
• Appropriates Euro cultural traditions/ Japanese tech
• Political/ gang organizing legacy
• Civil Rights / Nationalist >> 1980s supply side economics
• Reaganomics
• Technological acceleration
DJ Aesthetics:

- Jamaican Sound systems
- Disco, Funk, and Soul
- 1970s and 80s electronic music tech as instruments
- Dancer appeasement ("the break")
- Sampling of recorded sound
B-Boying Aesthetics (Breakdancing)

- Bomba, Rumba, Capoeira, salsa, funk, soul, gang fighting (battling), stylized kung fu
- Asphalt/concrete dance space
- Cardboard/linoleum
Rap Aesthetics

- Prison Toasts
- *Plena*, Rumba, Blues, Bomba, *palo*,
- *African American Poetry*
- Call-and-response
- Limericks
- Urban blight
- Exaggeration
- Battle