ENGLISH COMPOSITION I HONORS

ENG 101-04, MW, 12:00-1:15pm, Prof. Rhonda Gray

Pre-requisites: Placement test, recommendation by an Advisor or Faculty member, or earned a “B” or higher in ENG 091 or ENG 099

The impact of rap videos in shaping the identity of black women and men may have contributed to very narrow perceptions of African Americans exercised by members within and outside the ethnic group. One of the most troubling aspects of hip hop culture is its exploitation of black women that fuels sexism and misogyny. How has this cultural framework crippled African Americans as well as recreated a contemporary plantation society? Furthermore, how does rap videos and its presentation of gender roles an extension of the values of the dominant culture?

ENGLISH COMPOSITION II HONORS

ENG 102-16, TR, 10:30-11:45am, Prof. Mark Kjellman

Pre-requisite: Earned a “B” or higher in ENG 101

In this writing-intensive seminar, we’ll study the themes of escape and confrontation by analyzing recent writing, music, and cinema directly influenced by the blues tradition. We’ll use Kevin Young’s cultural theory of “storying” to help us explore “underground railroads of meaning” that run from the blues through hip hop. Readings feature Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon, poetry from the Dark Room Collective, Jim Jarmusch and Forest Whitaker’s Ghost Dog, and the lyrics and mixes of the Wu-Tang Clan.

HONORS COMPONENT: EARN HONORS CREDIT FOR MOST 100/200 LEVEL COURSES

Pre-requisite: Earned a “B” or higher in the pre-requisite course

Develop a project that grows out of coursework but should be above and beyond the requirements of an academic course. The range of possibilities is wide: lab research, creative production or artwork, archival or literary research, social science study, or service learning, to name a few. Honors Project applications are accepted at the beginning of each semester.

For more information, contact Prof. Rhonda Gray, Honors Committee Coordinator, at rgray@rcc.mass.edu or visit http://www.rcc.mass.edu/academics/honors-program