



# UNCG

Hello, my name is Tracy Salisbury, and I'm an instructor in the African American studies program, and I teach the online course Hip Hop Culture, Economics and Politics. My online course is the first and only Hip Hop course that's completely taught online in the United States. It makes it a very unique opportunity to present popular culture in a technological format moving from the classroom to a what you have a virtual classroom which gives you the opportunity to use several different mediums, so you can use live music, video, you can use personal interviews and it gives the students the opportunity to look at things multiple times, to really get an opportunity to dig deeper into the subject matter unlike when you're in the classroom and it's kind of hitting the student right at that moment in the classroom. Online is an opportunity for the kids to challenge me a lot deeper particularly with the online discussion they can take notes, they can look at the medium again take notes on that, they can listen to an interview again take notes on that, and really come back with really hard pushing questions. It also requires me to be more imaginative in how I respond.

What I like most about teaching online is the students. You're going to have a diverse population. You're going to have students coming from many different places. The first time I taught the course I had a student in France, and then I had a group of professors at a junior college in California. It's a much more integrated international collection of students with a really challenging group of ideas, thoughts going on that really challenges you than typically knowing exactly what you're going to expect with this number of students you're going to get in the classroom. You know you're going to have a certain age group in the classroom but I had students from the ages of eighteen to fifty-five online, you know and different levels of knowledge concerning popular culture. So it was a lot of fun, the interactions were great coming from different generational views, gender views and cultural views.