

Global Ciphas: Hip Hop Circles around the World

PARIS Maymester Course



Mr Freeze from the Rock Steady Crew. Archives of Mr Freeze. (www.downwiththis.fr)

In **FREN 499: Global Ciphas**, we analyze the formation of hip hop circles around the world, focusing on local scenes in Los Angeles and Paris. The “global cipa” (Spady 2006) refers to the practice of gathering in a circle during moments of exchange in hip hop sessions, but also the transnational circling of hip hop culture itself around the world as well as the cosmopolitan social circles that form in and through local hip hop cultural practices. **The first two weeks will take place on campus in Los Angeles (5/15-5/26)** where we will learn about hip hop history and meet with local hip hop cultural practitioners in LA. **The second two weeks will take place in Paris (5/29-6/12)** where we will study how hip hop cultural history and contemporary practices (re)located themselves in a European socio-economic context. Special sessions will be devoted to meeting with local hip hop practitioners and scholars, attending local hip hop events (concerts, battles, etc), visiting important sites for graffiti writing and street art, and individually conducting research in the field. **NOTE:** Conducted in English. Previous French language training is recommended but not required. **Estimated Cost** (excluding tuition & airfare): \$2,000 - \$2,500. (*\$400 non-refundable deposit required*)

*For further information, please contact **Professor Hill** (edwinhil@usc.edu)*