

Spring 2022

## Concept Album

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Context: I designed several assignments to accompany the March 1st symposium “Listen Differently: Black Feminism, Music, and Popular Culture.” My first assignment is a Concept Album – it allows students to be creative yet also analyze and interpret the musical catalogs and existing work of women of color in popular music. My hope with this assignment is that by studying the music of women of color, students will better understand Dr. Tricia Rose’s analysis in her book *Hip Hop Wars: What We Talk About When We Talk About Hip Hop*.

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(Rocky Rivera, *Rocky's Revenge*, 2018.)

Create a concept album examining sexual politics from a woman of color's perspective using songs from self-identified women of color from any musical genre. Women of color must play a central role in the song rather than a "guest" on the track.

Once you choose a concept, you will need to create original artwork for the album and select at least 10 songs.

When your album is complete, write about your album. Explain your album's concept, along with the music and imagery that you used to explore your concept. Reflect on your process by addressing the following questions:

- What did you learn about the concept you selected by listening to what other musicians wrote and recorded? What possibilities or limitations exist in how people talked about or explored the concept you selected? Did musical genre make a difference?
- Did you feel like you could fully address what you wanted to address about your concept using existing work? What songs did not make it onto your album? Why? Might any gaps or silences connect with critiques Tricia Rose or Rocky Rivera have made regarding commercial hip hop.

Please post the artwork for your album as a PNG or JPEG file. Feel free to use websites like [Canva](#) or [Adobe Spark](#) to create and edit the artwork for your album. You are also welcome to draw or paint your album art. Collage is a fun and valuable format for folks who feel like they aren't super creative.

Upload your reflection as a PDF file. Please format your reflection using the [MLA style](#). If you have any questions, email your instructor.

\*Thank you to Lindsey Leong, aka [Hella Famous](#), who consulted on the design of this assignment.