

“Don’t fly too high | Your wings might melt, you’re | much too good to be true | I’m just bad for you” (Kanye West 2016, “Wolves,” *The Life of Pablo*);  
“I have a condition called synesthesia...Everything I write sonically is a painting” (“”, 2016 interview);  
“Rome is the Silicon Valley of humanity” (“”, 2019 interview).

### 1. Oral-formulaic lines and enjambment

#### a. Homer, *Odyssey*, 1. 1-2

ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, μοῦσα, πολύτροπον, ὃς μάλα πολλὰ  
πλάγχθη...

#### b. “Politics as Usual,” Jay-Z (Shawn C. Carter), *Reasonable Doubt* (1996)

Kids stop  
They greetin’ me.  
I’m talking  
Sweet to keys  
Cursing the very God that brought this  
Grief to be  
My life is based on sacrifices,  
Jewels like Isis

#### c. “Jesus Walks,” Kanye West, *College Dropout* (2004)

A truck full of coke, rental car from Avis  
My mama used to say only Jesus can save us.  
Well, mama, I know I act a fool  
But I’ll be gone till November; I got packs to move.

### 2. Performance, Technology and Community

a. On Ralph Ellison (not part of my talk but relevant): “[Ralph] Ellison’s capacious technological and humanistic imagery undermines the popular model of equating technological development with freedom—particularly freedom from fear....Fear can lurk everywhere for the African American person who survives in a world where ‘the very ground on which they must fight, continues its offensive against them’ [Ellison, ‘The Way It Is’ quoted]” (Lieberman 2015: 21-22).

b. Nabeel Zuberi argues: “One of the goals for the descendants of displaced Africans has been the construction of future pasts that link them to others in diasporic time and space” (2007: 286).

### 3. “Oral Literature” and Anthropology

a. Alfred Kroeber at University of California, Berkeley, “a powerful symbol that continues to evoke exclusion and erasure for Native Americans.”<sup>1</sup>

b. “Juan Garcia was struck by how often Parry referred to ‘race’ in his master’s thesis—six times in one brief section alone” (Garcia 2001; Kanigel 2021: 65).

c. The comparison of “Yugoslav peasant singers to Homer...remain[ed] unsettling to many Hellenists. Cf. the comment by Hugh Lloyd Jones (1992: 52): ‘For the understanding of Homer’s poetry, German is a more important language than Serbo-Croatian.’” (Garcia 2001: 68).

d. “Though Africans were rarely perceived as a kind of ape, it was more commonly suggested that Africans and apes shared libidinous sexual characteristics or were sexually linked” (Jackson 2020:6).

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<sup>1</sup>For an article from 2021 on Kroeber Hall at the University of California, Berkeley, see <https://news.berkeley.edu/2021/01/26/kroeber-hall-unnamed/>.

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