

King's University College at Western University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 3329G, Section 570 (Winter 2020)

Hate Crimes

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Instructor: Joseph H. Michalski

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Office Locale: DL-201

Office Hours: Tuesdays (9:30-11:30am), Thursdays (1:30-2:30pm), and by appointment

Telephone: (519) 433-3491, x4439

Lectures: Thursdays, 2:30-5:30pm in KC-005

***Prerequisites:** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level, or permission of the Department

***Anti-Requisites:** None

***Please note:** Students must ensure that their course selections are appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken. Consult an academic counselor to clarify if needed. If a student does not have the prerequisites for a course (and no written special permission from the Dean to enroll in the course), then the University reserves the right to cancel that person's registration in the course. The decision may not be appealed. The normal financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the current course, we will examine "hate crimes" from a sociological perspective first by exploring the meaning and legal definitions of such crimes. The bulk of the course examines the empirical, historical, and theoretical issues involved in the social construction of hate crimes, why people engage in such crimes, what groups are targeted most often, and the legal system's responses. While the research considered will be mainly from the North American context (especially Canada and the U.S.), some cross-cultural and international materials will be referenced as well.

Key Course Learning Objectives. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Discuss the legal evolution of "hate crimes" in Canada, as well as the historical context and key issues that have affected changes in the law with respect to criminalizing certain behaviors.
- Describe the general patterns and trends of hate crimes, including the key demographic and socio-cultural facets associated with both perpetrators and victims.
- Identify the most significant groups and ideologies associated with hate crimes, as well as the consequences for (and experiences of) those targeted by such crimes.

- Evaluate the most important social scientific theories of hate crimes, the social contexts, and social psychological mechanisms argued to be most important for explaining why such crimes occur.
- Apply the requisite analytical tools to think clearly and reflexively about the interrelationships of human prejudice, intolerance, and hate crime.
- Understand the nature of social control, law enforcement, and public policy initiatives designed in response to hate crimes.

3. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS

The following book is required reading and available at the bookstore:

Eberhardt, Jennifer. 2019. *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*. New York: Viking.

In addition, several required readings will be available on-line as “supplemental readings” and posted on the OWL system (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>). Students must know their unique UWO username and password. Anyone who has forgotten the information should consult the Registrar’s office immediately (do not ask the instructor, as the key information can only be obtained from the Registrar or IT specialists at the university).

4. COURSE EVALUATION

Class Participation (10%): Students will receive a mark for regular attendance. Everyone should attend all of the seminars and participate actively to earn maximum credit.

Book Review (15%): Each student must prepare a detailed, five-page analytic review of Eberhardt’s book *Biased* (assigned as required reading). A rubric for the book review will be provided in class (due Feb. 13).

Bi-Weekly Mini-Assignments (20%): Each student must complete *any* four of the five mini-assignments that mainly involve a two-page analytic summary of selected reading materials. Each bi-weekly assignment will be worth 5%, but, as noted, students must complete only four of the five at their discretion.

Term Paper (30%): Each student will be required to submit a 10-page term paper on an any aspect of hate crime that s/he might wish to research. The papers should: 1) describe the nature of the hate crime issue being investigated and its relevance in contemporary society; 2) identify a general thesis and develop an argument to help explain the phenomenon being investigated; 3) gather and report on some high-quality data and/or case studies from a valid public source (e.g., government statistics, crime reports, academic research, national surveys, etc.) with respect to important trends or patterns; and 4) discuss the issue further in light of the evidence and present conclusions accordingly. More details will be provided in class (due April 2).

Final Exam (25%): Students are required to write a final exam in class with a combined essay and short-answer format during the final exam period (date between April 6-26, as assigned by the Registrar’s Office).

5. GRADING ASSIGNMENTS AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The assignments will be marked using the standard policies of King’s University College’s Department of Sociology. Please consult the King’s University College Academic Programs website for details. If a student needs an extension due to a medical or family emergency, then s/he should provide an official, signed doctor’s note or other evidence as appropriate. Consult with the instructor immediately should any emergencies or unexpected events arise that might compromise your ability to meet the deadlines.

6. SESSION OUTLINE

The following symbols are used to refer to the Required Readings in the Session Outline below: 1) “E” for chapters or pages from Eberhardt’s *Biased*; and 2) “S#” for additional *supplemental readings* (by number).

SESSION OUTLINE (WINTER 2020): DATES, TOPICS, AND REQUIRED READINGS

Date	Topic	Required Readings
Part I: Historical, Conceptual, and Methodological Issues in Studying Hate Crimes		
Jan. 9	Hate Crimes Course Overview: <i>Definitional and Conceptual Issues</i>	S#1, S#2
Jan. 16	Hate Crimes and the Law: <i>Legal Evolution and the Status of Hate Crimes</i> (Mini-Assignment #1 Due)	S#3, S#4
Jan. 23	Studying and Documenting Hate Crimes: <i>Methodological Issues and Crime Statistics</i>	S#5, S#6
Part II: Theoretical Approaches for Evaluating and Explaining Hate Crimes		
Jan. 30	Explaining Hate Crimes I: <i>Human Development, Socialization and Social Psychology</i> (Mini-Assignment #2 Due)	E: Chapters 1–6
Feb. 6	Explaining Hate Crimes II: <i>Group Dynamics, Social Contact and Network Influences</i>	E: Chapters 7–10, Conclusion
Feb. 13	Explaining Hate Crimes III: <i>Cultural Contexts and Ideological Justifications</i> (Book Review Due)	S#7, S#8
Feb. 20	Reading Week – No Classes!	(no new readings)
Part III: Hate Groups, Crime Victims, and Social/Legal Consequences		
Feb. 27	Ethnocultural Violence: <i>Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry</i> (Mini-Assignment #3 Due)	S#9, S#10
Mar. 5	Religious and Ideological Intolerance: <i>The Study of Anti-Semitic and Anti-Muslim Bigotry</i>	S#11, S#12
Mar. 12	Gendered Hatred: <i>Social Constructions of Gender, Identities, and Differences</i> (Mini-Assignment #4 Due)	S#13, S#14
Mar. 19	Sexual Orientation: <i>Homophobia and Transphobia</i>	S#15, S#16
Mar. 26	Cultural Marginalization and Powerlessness: <i>Disability, Homelessness, and Constructing Cultural “Others”</i> (Mini-Assignment #5 Due)	S#17, S#18
Apr. 2	Digitalization and Internationalization of Hate: <i>Resurgent Tribalism in a Global Environment of Scarcity</i> (Term Papers Due)	S#19, S#20
Apr. 6-26	Final Exam (to be determined)	

7. LECTURES AND ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and to participate actively in discussions as appropriate. Each session will be built around the topics described in the detailed session outline. Students ideally should read the assigned readings in advance of the scheduled lectures and be prepared to ask questions or otherwise discuss the materials. If a student cannot attend a lecture, then s/he will still be responsible for any materials or topics covered in class as scheduled.

Professional Behavior: While in class, students are expected to behave professionally (attentive, engaged, respectful, etc.). Nearly everyone will do so naturally, but uncivilized or unprofessional behavior on the part of even just one or two students can be extremely distracting to everyone in the class. Under no circumstances, for example, should people be engaging in any of the following behaviors while in class:

- Having ongoing private conversations or discussions.
- Text messaging, checking phone messages, or using a cell phone in some other way.
- Playing video games, listening to music, or sleeping.
- Accessing the internet or using a laptop (other than for note-taking).
- Passing notes to or receiving notes from other students.
- Engaging in romantic or other inappropriate contact with other students.
- Reading newspapers, books, or anything else unrelated to the class materials.

Students who engage in any of the above or similar behaviors may be asked kindly to leave the classroom for that day. That would be rather awkward...so please focus!

8. LATE POLICY/EXTENSIONS

In general, *there are no extensions granted for assignments*. The only exceptions to the “no extension” rule will be either a medical emergency (with a signed letter from a medical doctor) or a personal crisis judged to be beyond the student’s control at the discretion of the instructor. In the event of an emergency, you must contact the instructor *prior* to relevant due dates, if possible. Otherwise, a late penalty will be assessed in the form of a 5% deduction for each day past the due date.

9. KEY ACADEMIC DATES

The Academic Calendar notes the last day to drop a second-term half course or second-term full course without academic penalty as March 7, 2020. Please see <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm> for additional details or other key information/deadlines not covered in the current syllabus. Note that everyone will receive feedback and final marks on their analytic summaries *prior* to the drop deadline, as well as their project proposals, which will be posted on OWL. The policy thereby complies with the Western requirement that students should have at least 15% of their marks in hand before the due date for dropping a course without academic penalty.

10. STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

Please see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>

Support Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, available online (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Counselling and Student Development Services at King's:

Please visit the website (<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>) for various service information. For emotional and/or mental health assistance, please see: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Academic Services at King's University College:

The website for these services can be found at the following link: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/program-and-course-planning/academic-advising/>

11. STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone or any electronic devices with you during tests or exams.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom:

King's University College at Western acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions as per the Student Code of Conduct. The *inappropriate* use of laptops during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices accordingly. Finally, to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

12. ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PENALTIES

Each student must produce his/her own original work for any assignments, although students are encouraged to discuss course materials with others and to study in teams for exams as necessary. Under no circumstances can students plagiarize published work or copy the work of other students: “Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence” (see Scholastic Offences in the 2019-20 UWO Academic Calendar).

The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking; students may be required to submit written work electronically for plagiarism checking. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the right policy and definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

King’s is committed to Academic Integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, including the definition of what *is* a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholasticdiscipline_yundergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University in an effort to detect plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between Western and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

ONE FINAL NOTE: CONTACTING YOUR PROFESSOR

To contact the professor (Dr. Michalski), please feel free to stop by during designated office hours, call the office phone, or send an e-mail using the UWO mail system. Please do *not* send e-mail messages via the OWL system, as I do not regularly check that particular system for student queries or messages. I do, however, regularly check my e-mail account, so please use “**jmichal2@uwo.ca**” for any electronic contact (including emergency situations). Thank you!