

CCJ 5935: Hate Crime & Extremism

***Summer (C) 2010**

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course examines the many issues regarding hate crime and extremism. Crime that targets victims due to their social minority statuses is not a new social phenomenon. In this course, we will discuss the origin of hate crime laws from a socio-historical perspective. We will also address the controversy over whether or not hate crime laws are legally (or constitutionally) justified, focusing on the key arguments and their advocates. Research on hate crime has been stunted by a number of methodological obstacles. We will evaluate these obstacles and the major gaps in hate crime research. We will also spend multiple weeks addressing the characteristics of hate crime offenders and victims in the United States and internationally. Do hate crime offenders look like typical criminals? How do they behave? As for victims, what types of social minorities should be included as “protected groups” (e.g. homeless)? Finally, we will look at a number of readings on the many issues of responding to hate crime.

There are **three** major components of this course. Each component is described more below.

First, you will be responsible for reading all assigned materials and providing a weekly response to them. You will be expected to demonstrate that have thought critically about the issues presented in the readings, evaluated the evidence, and are able to identify various (and sometimes competing) perspectives on key issues.

Second, you will be responsible for participating in online discussions with your classmates. A question (or comment) will be posted by the professor for students to discuss each week.

Third, comprehension of course materials and your ability to integrate and apply what you learn will be evaluated in two essay-based exams, a mid-term and final exam.

Readings

There is no required textbook for this course.

All readings will be provided to you on FIU Online, usually as a *pdf* file or as a web link to online readings. In addition to required readings, citations to optional or recommended readings may be provided. While these optional readings may provide alternative perspectives and additional information on key issues, reading them is not necessary to do well in this course.

Course Requirements

Weekly Reading Responses (10 points each/100 points total)

Readings will be assigned every week except for those weeks in which a take-home exam is due. Failure to read and understand course materials will likely affect your ability to successfully fulfill the requirements of this course. As this is a graduate course, you are expected to critically engage the readings and integrate them with other course materials, your personal experiences, and the world around you.

You will be required to complete **10** Reading Responses. You cannot complete more than one Reading Response per week.

Putting adequate time and effort into your weekly Reading Responses will not only benefit your grade, but will prepare you for the Mid-term and Final Exams.

Directions: Post your *Reading Responses* under the **Assignments** tab found on the course webpage. A new assignment will be posted each week for which one is assigned.

1. Provide a brief overview of **each** of the **required** readings assigned readings for a particular week. State the main thesis and supporting evidence of each reading in paragraph form. The brief overviews are worth **4** of the **10** total points for each reading response.
2. After you provide an overview of each reading, respond to the readings related questions posted under the **Assignments** tab on the course webpage. Again, your responses should be in paragraph form. Remember to provide support for your positions from the readings. Your responses are worth **6** of the 10 total points for each reading response.

Format: between 400 and 500 words (this is the minimum and maximum). Your *Responses* should begin with an overview of the readings and end with a response to the questions posted weekly.

Due: by 12 am (midnight) on Sundays (unless otherwise noted in syllabus)

Online Discussions (aka Online Posts) (10 points each/100 points total)

Class participation will be evaluated by your involvement in online discussions. Each week I will post a question or comment relevant to the topic of the week. You will be required to provide an **initial response** to the question posted (worth **5** points) and a **secondary** (or follow-up) response (worth an additional **5** points) that addresses a fellow classmate's response. Note that a secondary response is not required for Week 1. Please feel free to respond to classmates as many times as you like, but you will not receive additional points for responses after your secondary response.

You are required to participate in online discussions for a total of 10 separate weeks as noted on the syllabus.

Directions: Submit your Online Post under the **Discussions** tab found on the course webpage for the appropriate topic.

1. Respond to the posted question/comment in **5 or more** sentences.
2. Include in your responses evidence from the readings, personal experience, and other sources of **reliable** information. You must avoid unsupported arguments and blanket statements based solely on your opinion.

***Note:* You are expected to communicate courteously and professionally with the professor and your fellow classmates. While it is expected that members of the course will disagree and participate in often lively debates, points will **not** be awarded for any response that is deemed unprofessional by the professor.

Due: by 12 am (midnight) each Sunday (unless an Exam is due)

Exams (Mid-Term and Final) (100 pts each/200 points total)

The Mid-term and Final Evaluations will be essay exams. The questions will cover key issues from the assigned readings. You will be expected to identify the relevant readings and integrate key ideas to fully respond to each question. After questions are posted you will have **one week** to respond. More detailed information will be provided to prior to the exams.

Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam are due by 12 a.m. on the dates listed below

Grades

Your grade for this course is based on (10) **responses to readings**, (10) **online discussion posts**, and (2) **exams** (Mid-term and Final).

Grade Allocation (400 points)

Assignment	Points
Midterm Evaluation	100
Final Evaluation	100
Response to Readings	100
Online Discussion Posts	100

Grading Scale

Grade	Points
A	97-100
A	94-96
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	Less than 60

Policies and Expectations

Professionalism

The online discussion forum is a place where all students should feel safe to express their thoughts and opinions without fear of reprisal from others. Any disrespect toward others in the class will not be tolerated.

Make-Up and Late Work:

There is no makeup work. Under only rare circumstances it is possible to reschedule

assignments/papers.

Course Calendar		
Date	Topic	Readings/Assignment
Week 1 5/3-5/9	Introductions	<p>Check out the course blog at: http://extremism101.wordpress.com/</p> <p>Read Blog Post Titled: <i>Week 1: Introduction to CCJ 5935 Hate Crimes and Extremism</i></p> <p>Due: Sunday 5/9/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p><u>Reading Response 1</u>: Follow the directions for Reading Response 1 that is posted under “Assignments” tab on FIU Online course webpage.</p> <p><u>Online Post 1</u>: Follow the directions for Online Post 1 that is posted under “Discussions” tab on FIU Online course webpage.</p>
Week 2 5/10-5/16	Macro-Social Context of Bias Crime Laws	<p>Grattet, R., & Jenness, V. (2001). The birth and maturation of hate crime policy in the United States. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 45(4), 668-696.</p> <p>Jacobs, J.B., & Henry, J.S. (1996). The social construction of a hate crime epidemic. <i>The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology</i>, 86(2), 366-391.</p> <p>Recommended Readings:</p> <p>Grattet, R., Jenness, V., & Curry, T.R. (1998). The homogenization and differentiation of hate crime law in the United States, 1978 to 1995: Innovation and diffusion in the criminalization of bigotry. <i>American Sociological Review</i>, 63(2), 286-307.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 5/16/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 2</p>

		Online Post 2
Week 3 5/17-5/23	The “Harms” of Bias Crime	<p>Lawrence, F.M. (1999/2000). The case for a federal bias crime law. <i>National Black Law Journal</i>, 16(2), 144-168.</p> <p>Jacobs, J.B. (1993). Should hate be a crime? <i>Public Interest</i>, 113, 3-14.</p> <p>Recommended Readings:</p> <p>Dharmapala, D., & Garoupa, N. (2004). Penalty enhancement for hate crimes: An Economic Analysis. <i>American Law and Economic Review</i>, 6(1), 185-207.</p> <p>Jacobs, J.B. & Potter, K.A. (1997). Hate crimes: A Critical Perspective. <i>Crime and Justice</i>, 22, 1-50.</p> <p>Levin, B. (1999). Hate crimes: Worse by definition. <i>Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice</i>, 15(6), 6-21.</p> <p>Iganski, P. (2001). Hate crimes hurt more. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 45(4), 626-638.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 5/23/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 3</p> <p>Online Post 3</p>
Week 4 5/24-5/30	Measuring Bias Crime	<p>Berk, R.A.(1990). Thinking about hate-motivated crimes. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 5(3), 334-349.</p> <p>Bowling, B. (1993). Racial harassment and the process of victimization. <i>British Journal of Criminology</i>, 33(2), 231-250.</p> <p>Strom, K.J. (2001). <i>Hate crimes reported in NIBRS, 1997-1999</i>. Bureau of Justice Statistics.</p> <p>Recommended Readings:</p> <p>Nolan, J.J., Akiyama, Y., & Berhanu, S. (2002). The</p>

		<p>Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990: Developing a method for measuring the occurrence of hate violence. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 46(1), 136-153.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 5/30/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 4</p> <p>Online Post 4</p>
<p>Week 5 5/31-6/6</p>	<p>Categorizing and Explaining and Bias Crime</p>	<p>McDevitt, J., Levin, J., & Bennett, S. (2002). Hate crime offenders: An expanded typology. <i>Journal of Social Issues</i>, 58(2), 303-317.</p> <p>Bufkin, J.L. (1999). Bias crime as gendered behavior. <i>Social Justice</i>, 26(1), 155-176.</p> <p>Iganski, P. (2008). Criminal law and the routine activity of 'hate crime.' <i>Liverpool Law Review</i>, 29, 1-17.</p> <p>Recommended Readings:</p> <p>Phillips, N.D. (2009). The prosecution of hate crimes: The limitations of the hate crime typology. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 24(5), 883-905.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 6/6/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 5</p> <p>Online Post 5</p>
<p>Week 6 6/7-6/13</p>	<p>Organized Hate</p>	<p>Blazak, R. (2001). White boys to terrorist men: Target recruitment of Nazi skinheads. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 44, 982-1000.</p> <p>Watts, M.W. (2001). Aggressive youth cultures and hate crime: Skinheads and xenophobic youth in Germany. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 45(4), 600-615.</p>

		<p>Sapp, A.D., Holden, R.N., & Wiggins, M.E. (1991). Value and belief systems of right-wing extremists: Rationale and motivation for bias-motivated crimes. In N. Taylor (Ed.), <i>Bias Crime: The law enforcement response</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 6/13/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 6</p> <p>Online Post 6</p>
<p>Week 7 6/14-6/20</p>	<p>Mid-Term Exam</p>	<p>Mid-Term Exam Due 6/20/10 (12 a.m.)</p>
<p>Week 8 6/21-6/27</p>	<p>Racial and Religious Victims</p>	<p>Torres, S. (1999). Hate crimes against African Americans: The extent of the problem. <i>Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice</i>, 15, 48-63.</p> <p>Kaplan, J. (2006). Islamophobia in America?: September 11 and Islamophobic hate crime. <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, 18, 1-33.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 6/27/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 7</p> <p>Online Post 7</p>
<p>Week 9 6/28-7/4</p>	<p>LGBTQ Victims</p>	<p>Berill, K. Anti-gay violence: Causes, consequences, and responses. In R.J. Kelly and J. Maghan (Eds.), <i>Hate crime: The global politics of polarization</i> (151-164). Carbondale: Southern Illinois University.</p> <p>Herek, G.H. (1989). Hate crimes against lesbians and gay men. <i>American Psychologist</i>, 44(6) 948-955.</p> <p>Witten, T.M., & Eyler, A.E. (1999). Hate crimes and violence against the transgendered. <i>Peace Review</i>, 11(3), 461-468.</p>

		Due: None due to Holiday
Week 10 7/5-7/11	Other Victims	<p>Gratett, R., & Jenness, V. (2001). Examining the boundaries of hate crime law: Disabilities and the “dilemma of difference”. <i>Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology</i>, 91(3), 653-697.</p> <p>Byers, B., Crider, B.W., & Biggers, G.K. (1999). Bias crime motivation: A study of hate crime and offender neutralization techniques used against the Amish. <i>Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice</i>, 15, 78-96.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 7/11/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 8</p> <p>Online Post 8</p>
Week 11 7/12-7/18	Media Coverage of Hate Crimes	<p>Colomb, W., & Damphousse, K. (2004). Examination of newspaper coverage of hate crimes: A moral panic perspective. <i>American Journal of Criminal Justice</i>, 28(2), 147-163.</p> <p>Quist, R.M., & Wiegand, D.M. (2002). Attributions of hate: The media’s causal attributions of a homophobic murder. <i>The American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 46(1), 93-107.</p> <p>Recommended Readings:</p> <p>Husselbee, L.P., & Elliot, L. (2002). Looking beyond hate: How national and regional newspapers framed hate crimes. <i>Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly</i>, 79(4), 833-852.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 7/18/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 9</p> <p>Online Post 9</p>

Week 12 7/19-7/25	Policing Hate Crimes	<p>Cronin, S.W., McDevitt, J., Farrell, A., Nolan, J.J.III. (2007). Bias-crime reporting: Organization responses to ambiguity, uncertainty, and infrequency in eight police departments. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 51, 213-231.</p> <p>Kielinger, V., & Paterson, S. (2007). Policing hate crime in London. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 51, 196-204.</p> <p>Nolan, J.J., & Akiyama, Y. (1999). An analysis of factors that affect law enforcement participation in hate crime reporting. <i>Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice</i>, 15, 111-127.</p> <p>Recommended Readings:</p> <p>Levin, B., & Amster, S.E. (2007). Making hate history: Hate crime and policing in America's most diverse city. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 51, 319-348.</p> <p>Due: Sunday 7/25/10 (12 a.m.)</p> <p>Reading Response 10</p> <p>Online Post 10</p>
Week 13 7/26-8/1	Prosecuting Hate Crimes	<p>Levin, J., & Rabrenovic, & Ferraro, V., et al. (2007). When a crime committed by a teenager becomes a hate crime: Results from two studies. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 51(2), 246-257.</p> <p>Franklin, K. (2002). Good intentions: The enforcement of hate crime penalty-enhancement statutes. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 46(1), 154-172.</p>
Week 14 8/2-8/7	Final Evaluation	Final Exam Due 8/7/10 (12 a.m.)

***Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or updates to the syllabus at any point during the semester.**