

Sociology of Violence and Hate (SOCL1241)

Instructor: Jack Levin

Fall, 2015

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:15-12:15; or by appointment

Course hours: T/F 1:35-3:15 (135 Shillman)

Teaching Assistant: Sam Maron (9th floor, desk B4, Renaissance Park)

Office hours: Thursdays, 2:30-4:30pm.

Email: s.maron@neu.edu

Course Description:

This course will examine the interpersonal and structural characteristics, causes, and consequences of violence and hate, from individual acts of aggression to large-scale episodes of inter-group conflict. Topics include serial and mass murder, international conflict, workplace homicide, hate crimes and prejudice, juvenile violence, domestic terrorism, family annihilations, mass media violence, and school massacres. The relative effectiveness of various interventions at the individual and group levels will be explored.

Readings:

1) James A. Fox, Jack Levin, and Kenna Quinet, *The Will to Kill: Making Sense of Senseless Murder (paperback, 4th edition)*, 2012.

Note: Do not confuse this text with its earlier editions or with *The Will to Kill: Explaining Senseless Murder* by Fox and Levin, without Quinet.

2) Paul Iganski and Jack Levin, *Hate Crime: A Global Perspective (Paperback)*, 2015.

3) Pete Simi and Robert Futrell, *American Swastika (Paperback, second edition)*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2015.

Topics:

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| 1. Types, Patterns & Theories Of Violence | Read: Will To Kill (Chapters 2 & 3) |
| 2. Juvenile and School Violence | Read: Will To Kill (Chapters 5 & 6) |
| 3. Partner and Family Homicide | Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 4) |
| 4. Serial Murder | Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 7) |
| 5. Mass Murder and Workplace Violence | Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 9) |

(Midterm—after 5th topic)

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| 6. Cult Killings | Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 12) |
| 7. Terrorist Violence | Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 11) |
| 8. Prejudice, Hate and Violence | Read: Hate Crime (Preface and Chapters 1 and 2) |
| 9. Hate Crimes | Read: Will to Kill (Chapter 10) |
| 10. Types of Hatemongers | Read: Hate Crime (Chapter 7) |
| | Read: American Swastika: Entire Book |

(Quiz)

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| 11. Responding to Violence and Hate | Read: Hate Crime (Chapter 9), Will to Kill (sections of Chapters 13 and 14). |
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(Final exam)

Requirements:

There are two multiple choice exams and a quiz. *The midterm* covers topics (*not* chapters) 1- 5 above, and is worth 40% of your total grade. Following the first exam, there will be a *quiz* (worth 20%) covering the entire book *American Swastika*. The *final exam*--worth 40%--includes topics 6 - 11. Both exams—midterm and final--cover assigned readings, lectures, and documentary films presented in class during the course.

The midterm exam is *tentatively* scheduled for Friday, October 23, the quiz for Friday, November 20. Final exam week begins on Friday, December 11th and ends on Friday, December 18th. Please *make sure that your travel plans do not conflict with the timing of the final* (TBA). *It is a violation of University rules to give final exams during the last week of classes, so please don't ask.*

The in-class *quiz* covering *American Swastika* will require that you write a couple of paragraphs or so (no longer than one page each) in response to two general questions about the book.

Later on, Sam Maron will ask students for your contributions to a conversation about course topics on Blackboard's discussion board. I will also ask several students to volunteer for my prejudice panel later in the course. We will discuss this in class.

I look forward to seeing you in class. Have a great semester, and I hope you enjoy the course.

Jack Levin