

Sociology of Violence and Hate (SOCU241)

Fall 2005
Blackman

Instructor: Jack Levin
569 Holmes
(617)373-4983
e-mail: jlevin1049@aol.com
website: www.violencecenter.com
Office hours: TBA and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
522 Holmes
(617)373-7721
Office hours: TBA

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 inter-group conflict. Topics include serial and mass murder, international conflict, workplace homicide, hate crimes and prejudice, juvenile violence, genocide, mass media violence, and school massacres. The relative effectiveness of various interventions at the individual and group levels will be explored.

READINGS

- 1) Jack Levin and Jack McDevitt, *Hate Crimes Revisited*, Westview Press, Paperback, 2002.
- 2) James A. Fox, Jack Levin, and Kenna Quinet, *The Will to Kill: Making Sense of Senseless Murder (paperback second edition)*, 2005.
- 3) John Howard Griffin, *Black Like Me*, Signet Paperback, 1996.

TOPICS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Types, Patterns & Theories of Violence | Read: Will To Kill (Chapters 2 & 3) |
| 2. Partner and Family Homicide | Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 4) |

3. Juvenile and School Violence

Read:

4. Serial Murder

Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 7)

5. Mass Murder and Workplace Violence

Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 8)

6. Terrorist Violence

Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 10)

7. Cult Killings

Read: Will To Kill (Chapter 11)

(Midterm)

8. Hate Crimes

Read: *Hate Crimes* (Introduction & Chapter 1), Will to Kill (Chapter 9)

9. Prejudice, Hate and Violence in American Life

Read: *Hate Crimes*(Chapters 2 &3)

10. Roots of Prejudice and Violence

Read: *Hate Crimes* (Chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7)

11. Types of Hate Crimes

Read:*Hate Crimes*(Chapters 8,9,10, & 11).

Read: *Black Like Me*: Entire Book

(Quiz)

12. Responding to Violence and Hate

Read: *Hate Crimes* (Chapters

(Final exam)

REQUIREMENTS

There are two exams and a quiz. Worth 40%, the *first exam* covers topics 1,2, and 3 above. At some point following the first exam, there will be a *quiz*

(worth 10%) covering the book *Black Like Me*. The *final exam*--worth 45%--

includes 4 and 5 only. Both exams cover reading assignments, lectures, student projects, and videotapes presented during the course. The *final* will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office sometime during examination week, April 15-23. Please make sure that your travel plans do not conflict with the timing of the exam. You may choose either multiple choice or essay as the format for either exam, first or final. The in-class *quiz* covering *Black Like Me* will require you to write a few sentences in response to each of several questions. During the semester, a number of extra-credit projects and assignments will be offered.