

Hate Crimes

CRJU E425 (Section 300)
Fall 2009
T, Th 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Davis College (DC) 209
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

CRJU E425 is designed to examine the history and causal explanations of hate crimes and to look at the controversies surrounding them. The course will also examine possible controls and rehabilitative strategies for hate offenders. The course will provide a foundation for a legal understanding of crimes that are motivated by racial, gender, religious, disability, and sexual orientation biases of offenders.

Goal of the Course

In addition to exploring the development of hate crime statutes in the United States today, a major goal of the course will be to help students understand the dynamic of haters and hate groups and the various motivations and ideologies underlying their activities. A significant part of this discussion will focus on balancing the constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of expression, religion and association against prohibited hate activities. The course will also briefly look at the global status of hate crimes legislation and intervention. The format of course instruction will be a mixed lecture and Socratic teaching style.

Required Textbook

The required textbook for the course is Phyllis Gerstenfeld's "Hate Crimes: Causes, Controls and Controversies" (2004) published by Sage Publications. Tentative reading assignments are listed below in this syllabus and I will also periodically post supplemental "class notes", articles or other reading materials, throughout the semester to assist you in understanding the course topics. The supplemental materials will be posted on Blackboard in Adobe's portable document format (.pdf). The text reading assignments, as well as all class supplemental materials posted on Blackboard, are required reading and testable.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Distinguish the concepts of hate speech and hate crime
- Identify the limitations imposed by the Reconstruction Amendments in hate crime legislation
- Describe the "triad of hating" concept
- Describe the role of "Christian Identity" ideology in right wing extremist groups
- Describe the "unified field" approach to the study of hate crimes
- Describe the importance of "motive" in hate crime prosecutions
- Identify the stages of the "Seven-Stage Hate Model"
- Identify the categories of reporting under the Hate Crimes Statistics Act

Course Written Requirements

During the semester there will be a midterm examination, counting as 35% of the total course grade, and a final examination, counting as 40% of the total course grade. All students will also be required to complete and turn in four short written "class participation" assignments that will count as 25% of the total course grade. The class participation assignments will be posted on Blackboard in the "Assignments" section at various times throughout the semester as indicated below in this syllabus.

Academic Integrity

The course will operate within the guidelines established by the University of South Carolina as set out in Carolina Community. The University has clearly articulated its policies governing academic integrity and you are encouraged to carefully review those policies, to include the requirements of the USC Honor Code

(Student Affairs Policy STAF 6.28). You are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and any deviation from this expectation will result in academic penalties, to include, where indicated, referral to the Office of Academic Integrity. Violations of the USC Honor Code include, but are not limited to improper citation of sources, using another student's work, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. For more information, see the [Carolina Community Student Handbook](#).

The four class participation assignments for the course (see discussion below) will be processed through an automated plagiarism checker. Any type of dishonesty, including plagiarism in the submitted CPAs, will be dealt with in accordance with the USC Honor Code. Make sure that what you submit to me is your own work and where you use the words, or work, of others in your submission, that you provide proper attribution. The University has provided suggestions for students regarding how to avoid academic dishonesty. Those suggestions are set out on the web page of the USC Office of Academic Integrity at the following link:

<http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/tips.html>

Please contact me before you run into academic difficulties in the course. My role is to assist you in understanding the substance of this course. There is no shame in seeking help when it is needed but there is great disgrace in dishonesty. You may contact me at any time to discuss your concerns about the course and I will be glad to help you address them.

Class Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than five classes are subject to having their final course grade reduced by one full letter grade. In accordance with USC policy, the "five class rule" applies to absences of any kind, whether "excused" or unexcused.

Students are expected not only to attend all classes but, as well, to have read assignments prior to the class for which assigned, to be able to provide responses to questions based on the readings and to meaningfully participate in the class discussion.

Examination Scheduling

The midterm examination is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6, 2009**.
The final examination is scheduled for **Thursday, December 10, 2009**.

Course Grade Computation

Course grades will be calculated and course letter grades assigned as indicated below. Final numeric grades will be rounded up to the next whole number before assigning the letter grade for the course. Numeric rounding will not be made for midterm or class participation grades. All grades will be posted in the "Grade Center" on Blackboard.

Midterm Exam: 35%
Class Participation Assignments: 25%
Final Exam: 40%

Letter	Percentage
A	91 to 100
B+	86 to 90
B	80 to 85
C+	75 to 79
C	70 to 74
D	60 to 69
F	Below 60%

Class Participation Assignments

Throughout the semester, as indicated on the class schedule below, I will assign Class Participation Assignments (CPAs). The four assignments count, collectively, as 25% of your total course grade. The first assignment is worth 10% of the total course grade and the remaining three assignments are worth 5% each of

the total course grade. The assignments will be posted on Blackboard in the "Assignments" section and will contain specific instructions as to how and when you must complete and submit each assignment. CPAs which are not turned in on time will have points deducted. For example, if CPA #1 is turned in after the due date, I will deduct 2% from the 10% full value of the assignment. If any of the remaining CPAs are turned in late, I will deduct 1% from the 5% full value of each assignment. **The absolute deadline for all late CPA submissions is Midnight on December 3rd.** I will not accept any assignments after that time unless you have made arrangements with me for late submission prior to the assignment's due date. Absent prior authorization from me, you will receive no credit for any CPA submitted after December 3rd.

When you submit your CPAs you will do so by e-mailing the assignment to me before the deadline specified in the assignment itself. I will send you a reply e-mail when I receive the assignment, although my reply may not be sent until some time after you have actually submitted the assignment. You should save your sent e-mail, along with your saved CPA file attachment, in your e-mail "sent" folder and not delete it until you have received confirmation that I have received it. This is because the University e-mail system, from time to time, does not deliver all messages. It is also because, some students have a "talent" for submitting assignments to the wrong e-mail address. My e-mail address is smithwil@mailbox.sc.edu. Mail sent to smith@mailbox.sc.edu or bsmith@mailbox.sc.edu, or any other e-mail address, will not reach me. Thus, save your sent assignments, with attachment, on the chance that the e-mail system "burps" or the assignment is sent to the wrong e-mail address.

I do not individually grade the CPAs. In other words, if you do what is required by the assignment's instructions, submit it on time and receive an acknowledgment e-mail from me, you will receive a score of "100" on the CPA. If I send the assignment back to you because you have not done what is required, you are still operating under the required deadline for the assignment. So, if you submit an incomplete assignment right at the deadline and it is returned, you are looking at a reduction in points. **Bottom line:** Check your work and make sure you have done what the instructions require, save your completed work with the appropriate file name, as required in the instructions, make sure you have answered the questions posed and then send the assignment to the correct e-mail address by, or before, the deadline. **As noted previously, I will do a plagiarism check on all CPA submissions. Do your own work and do not "borrow" the work of others.**

Contact Information

Primary class contact will be via e-mail. Please make sure that the e-mail address you will use for the class is the e-mail address listed for you in the Blackboard system. This should be done by no later than the third class meeting. I will not send messages to, or accept messages from, multiple e-mail addresses for the same student.

You are not only responsible for having your correct e-mail address entered into the Blackboard system, but, as well, for regularly checking your e-mail messages for important class related information. Please make sure that my e-mail address is not "blocked" by your "spam guard" or other filtering software. My e-mail address is smithwil@mailbox.sc.edu.

I encourage and welcome your questions or contact at any time. The best, and preferred, method of reaching me is by e-mail, but I am also accessible by telephone and fax at the following numbers:

803-898-9326 (Office- Direct)
803-898-9114 (Office Fax- Direct)
803-783-9729 (Home)
803-776-7168 (Home Fax)
803-667-1037 (Cell)

I will be pleased to make arrangements to personally meet with you if you believe that a personal meeting is necessary. Please contact me to make an appointment through any of the above numbers or via e-mail. If you need to reach me by telephone, it is best to call my office number. If I am not available there, please leave a voicemail message, including your call-back number with the area code, and I will return your call as soon as possible. I turn my cell phone off, on non-class days, after 6:00 p.m. If you have an emergency situation you need to communicate after 6:00 p.m. on a non-class day, please call my home telephone number.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 require USC to provide academic adjustments or accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students seeking academic adjustments or accommodations must self-identify both with me and with the Office of Student Disability Services so that effective accommodation may be made where necessary.

Class Topics Schedule and Tentative Reading Assignments

Listed below are the class topics we will, tentatively, discuss in each class and the assigned readings for each topic.

AUGUST

- 20** **Class Overview** - No reading assignment
- 25** **Introduction** - Pages 1-8 and **“Toward an Interdisciplinary Field of Hate Studies”** (Article posted on Blackboard)
- 27** **Class Participation Exercise #1 (10% of Course Grade) Work Day- No Class**

SEPTEMBER

- 1** **Pre-Hate Crime Laws** - Pages 9-23
- 3** **Birth of Hate Crimes** - Pages 23-35
- 8** **“A Crime by Any Other Name”** (Article posted on Blackboard)
- 10** **Constitutional and Policy Issues** - Pages 37-52
- 15** **Classifying and Prosecuting Hate Crimes** - Pages 52-68
- 17** **Committing Hate: Who and Why?** - Pages 71-82
- 22** **What Makes a Bigot?** - Pages 82-99
- 24** **Class Participation Exercise #2 (5% of Course Grade) Work Day- No Class**
- 29** **“The Social Psychology of Hatred”** (Article posted on Blackboard)

OCTOBER

- 1** **“Hate Unmasked”** (Article posted on Blackboard)
- 6** **MIDTERM EXAM** (Covers pages 9-99, plus articles posted on Blackboard)
- 8** **FALL BREAK- NO CLASS**
- 13** **“The Seven-Stage Hate Model”** (Article posted on Blackboard)
- 15** **Hate Groups** - Pages 103-120
- 20** **Hate Group Ideologies** - Pages 120-135
- 22** **Class Participation Exercise #3 (5% of Course Grade) Work Day- No Class**

27 [“Christian Identity: An American Heresy”](#) (Article posted on Blackboard)

29 [“Dangerous Convictions” Extract](#) (Article on Blackboard)

NOVEMBER

3 [Problems in Identifying Victims \(Hate Crimes Against African Americans\)](#) - Pages 141-151

5 [Hate Crimes Against Other Groups](#) - Pages 151-168

10 [Fighting Hate](#) - Pages 171-185

12 [Fighting Hate \(continued\)](#) - Pages 185-197

17 [Global Hate](#) - Pages 201-216

19 [Global Hate \(continued\)](#)- Pages 216-229

24 [Class Participation Exercise #4 \(5% of Course Grade\) Work Day- No Class](#)

26 [THANKSGIVING RECESS- NO CLASS](#)

DECEMBER

1 [The Future of Hate](#) - Pages 233-244

3 [READING DAY- NO CLASS](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE: NO CP EXERCISES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE AT MIDNIGHT

10 [FINAL EXAM \(Covers only materials after the Midterm Exam\)](#)