### Why People Hate: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

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### Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary approach to examining the topic of hate. It explores the construct of hate from historical, psychological, sociological, organizational, and criminal justice perspectives. First, through the analysis of racist and nativist legislation, we will study the institutionalization and sanctioning of hate by the United States government and the American people’s support for and opposition to this process. As we come to understand how hate is institutionalized, we will focus on what psychologists know about stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. Along with the psychological perspectives, we will consider sociological theories and the role that culture and social structures play in encouraging us to hate and fear those that are different. We will examine how this hate finds expression in our organizations in the form of discrimination, violence, bullying, and harassment. An important component of the course is that we will not only study why hate occurs and how it is expressed but we will also explore ways in which we can prevent the growth of hate and fear.

### Course Goals

The goal of this course is to explore how the phenomenon of hatred is approached differently by various academic disciplines, and how to tie these disparate approaches
together in order to better understand how hatred works individually and collectively, and within different institutions.

**Required Texts**

Howard Ehrlich, *Hate Crimes and Ethnoviolence*
Elinor Langer, *A Hundred Little Hitlers: The Death of a Black Man, the Trial of a White Racist, and the Rise of the Neo-Nazi Movement in America*
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

Reading Packets – See schedule for reading assignments
Blackboard readings

**Requirements and Grading**

A maximum of 100 points may be earned for this course.

3 take home exams
   Exam 1 and 2 at 20 points each = 40 points
   Final 10 points = 10 points

Group paper/presentation at 40 points =
   Paper at 30 points +
   Presentation at 10 points = 40 points

Participation and attendance = 10 points

Total = 100 points

**Group Project and Presentation Overview**

The overall objective of the semester project and group presentation is to demonstrate how different theoretical approaches might be used to better understand specific examples of hate. During the first day of class we will provide students with a few examples of potential research questions. By the third week of the semester we will provide you with a list of approximately 15 questions for you to choose from. We will use the research question you have selected as a way of organizing the class into groups of 5 students. Therefore, you will be grouped with other students that have identified similar or related research interests. Once we have grouped the class into research teams, class time (“work days”) will be set aside enabling students to brainstorm theoretical approaches and bodies of research appropriate to their topic. Since the objective of the project is to demonstrate the importance of taking on a multidisciplinary perspective, group members must select at least two theoretical approaches to their topic. (Since criminal justice and sociology are closely tied to each other, students must select one or the other approach, coupled with one from the remaining disciplines). By mid-April each group will submit one research paper. The group’s division of labor and each student’s responsibility will be critical to the successful completion of the written project and the presentation. Because of
this, we will ask students to evaluate the individual efforts of their group members at the end of the semester.

**Section Descriptions**

**Why People Hate: The History of Hate**  
Dr. Robert Donnelly

*Description:*  
What examples from our past strengthen the foundation of hate in this nation?  
How was hate institutionalized by society and even governments?  
What can we learn from previous struggles, even those more than a century ago, to eradicate hate from our society?

*Goals:*  
We all know the old cliché: “We study history to learn from our mistakes.” Have we learned anything? The goal of this first section is to create a foundation for our later discussions on why people hate.

**Why People Hate: The Sociology of Hate**  
Dr. Marguerite Marin

*Description:*  
In this section of the class we will examine hate from a sociological perspective.  
Specifically what role does culture, normative definitions and social structure play in encouraging us to hate and fear those that are different. First, we will explore the social conditions and contexts in which prejudices give to violence. Second, we will identify the fears, hate and violence associated with a rapid change in the racial and ethnic mix of a society. Finally, we will address the social conditions that must be present to prevent the growth of hate and fear.

*Goals:*  
The goal of this section is explore and understand the cultural and social conditions that give rise to and encourage expressions of hate. You will also gain insight in the prevention of behavior based on hate and the possibilities for social change. To do this you will examine the theories and current research in the field.
**Why People Hate: The Psychology of Prejudice**  
Dr. Monica Bartlett

*Description*

During this section of the course we will focus on what psychologists know about stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. We will explore what those terms actually mean and why they occur. We will look at examples in our own culture and, importantly, we will examine how and why *each one of us* holds stereotypes and manifests discrimination, possibly in ways of which we are not even aware.

*Goals:*

- Dissect one dimension of hatred: stereotyping and its consequences.
- Become familiar with the psychological definitions of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination
- Know the 3 theories proposed to explain *why* stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination occur.
- Understand a selection of the groundbreaking research in this field
- Develop your own opinions about this topic’s importance and relevance.

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**Why People Hate: Hate in Organizations**  
Dr. Molly Pepper

*Descriptions:*

- How does invisible privilege set the stage for discrimination in organizations?
- How do the structures and processes in organizations set the stage for workplace violence and bullying?
- How prevalent is sexual harassment in today’s workplace and what are its consequences?
- What is the cost of hate in the workplace?

During this section of the course we will focus on hate in the workplace. Specifically, these two weeks will examine the structures and processes in organizations that allow hate to find expression through discrimination, violence, bullying, and harassment.

*Goals:*

- Recognize hate in the workplace and its consequences.
- Identify hate in the workplace, calculate its costs, and consider its remedies.
**Why People Hate: Criminal Justice**  
Dr. Vikas Gumbhir

*Description:*

In the concluding section of this course, students will examine the development of the skinhead movement as a means of exploring two interrelated issues: 1) the social dynamics of hate-based youth groups; and 2) the role of the law and the criminal justice system in addressing the problem of hate in America. More specifically, students will:

- Discuss the roots of the skinhead subculture in England, looking specifically at the relationship between socioeconomic conditions, xenophobic politics, and alienated youth.

- Examine how neo-Nazi skinhead style and ideology were imported, transformed, and transmitted to American youths.

- Review the murder of Mulugeta Seraw, exploring the context of the crime (in terms of the events leading up to the incident and the history of the Pacific Northwest), the legal response to the killing, and the impact of both the litigation and the cultural backlash on the skinhead movement.

- Critically evaluate the potential of the law and the criminal justice system in dealing with hate groups, hate crimes, hate speech, and other related matters.

*Goals:*

Through a detailed examination of the skinhead movement, it is my hope that students will:

- Integrate historical, organizational, psychological, and sociological perspectives into their analysis of different aspects of the skinhead subculture.

- Bridge the gap between large-scale structural and cultural influences (economic shifts, institutional racism) and individual and small group explanations (socialization, social control, and learning perspectives) on racism in general, and hate group membership specifically.

- Reach beyond standard accounts of the development of racial prejudice and investigate alternative explanations for hate group membership.

- Gain a more complete and critical understanding what the law and the criminal justice can and cannot reasonably be expected to achieve.

- Explore the unintended consequences of relying heavily on the law and the criminal justice system in efforts to address the problem of hate in America.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. January 12</td>
<td>Introduction to Course and team taught strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., January 14</td>
<td>Panel Presentation: Institute for action Against Hate</td>
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<td>(A little history to this class and the events of the Spokane/Coeur d’Alene area.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., January 19</td>
<td><strong>Why People Hate: The History of Hate</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Donnelly</strong></td>
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<td>What examples from American history strengthen the foundation of hate in this nation? How was hate institutionalized by society and even our government?</td>
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<td>U.S. Native American and immigration policies; nativism.</td>
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<td>Tues., January 21</td>
<td>Nativism continued; Black American history since Reconstruction.</td>
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<td>Thurs. January 26</td>
<td>Black American history since Reconstruction continued; <strong>Coming of Age in Mississippi</strong> discussion</td>
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**Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi.**
Hitler’s Germany

The Sociology of Hate
Dr. Marin

The role of culture, normative definitions, and social structure

1. What is the sociohistorical context of ethnic violence and hate?

2. How culture can be a force that generates discord, conflict, and violence (dominate-minority relations)?

3. How does culture establish the framework through which people perceive others—perceptions that may lead to suspicion and differential treatment?

4. What is ethnoviolence?

Prejudice as social learning and conformity:

People learn prejudice usually as children—it is an acquired characteristic, a social phenomenon.

1. Socialization is a life-long process. Attitudes in an adult’s present social environment can also shape what was learned as a child—the tendency to conform to those one’s reference groups. How has the media become a primary source in teaching and guiding ethnic and race relations?

2. What is the production of pathology?
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues., February 9</td>
<td>Structuring Hate and Ethnoviolence</td>
<td>Readings: Hate Crimes and Ethnoviolence, chapters, 8-9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. How does the depiction of certain spectacular events frame ethnic and race relations?</td>
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<td>2. How can ordinary people do terrible things?</td>
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<td>3. Conflict and hate on college campuses?</td>
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<td>Thurs., February 11</td>
<td>What can we do to eliminate hate?</td>
<td>Readings: Hate Crimes and Ethnoviolence, chapter, 10</td>
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<td>Often cited approaches:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1) access to accurate information;</td>
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<td>2) education;</td>
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<td>3) intergroup contact--the Contact hypothesis</td>
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<td>4) legislation (can behavior change attitudes?)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ultimately we must work to eliminate its causes: the fear of being threatened, the need to blame others for our difficulties, and the desire to exploit.</td>
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<td>Tues., February 16</td>
<td>Group work day (all professors attend when possible)</td>
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<td>Thurs., March 4</td>
<td>Group Work day (all professors attend when possible)</td>
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<td>March 8-12</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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Thurs., March 25

Cost of hate in the workplace
Discuss the costs of hate in the workplace. It is estimated that each bully in the workplace costs the organization $160,000. In 2006, the EEOC recovered 61.4 million dollars from U.S. organizations for racial discrimination and $99.1 million for sexual harassment cases.

Exam #2 distributed (due April 6)

Why it’s time to address conduct that can cost your firm millions (Lisa Isom-Rodriguez, Editor) in Law Office Management and Administration Report, June 2007.

Tues., March 30

Criminal Justice: Hate Groups
Dr. Gumbhir

1. An Introduction to the Sociology of Subcultures.

Readings: A Hundred Little Hitlers: Prologue, Section I (“The Death of Mulugeta Seraw”), and Section II (“Underground”).
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, April 8</td>
<td>1. The Trial of Tom Metzger and the Problem of Justice.</td>
<td><em>A Hundred Little Hitlers</em>: Section VII (“The Trial of Tom Metzger”).</td>
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<td>Thurs., April 13</td>
<td>Faculty Panel: What have we covered, what haen’t we covered? Student questions will drive the panel discussion.</td>
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<td>Tues., April 15</td>
<td>Speaker on Hope and Change</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>Group work day</td>
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<td>Exam #3 distributed (due no later than Wed., May 6, 5pm) Papers due</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>April 22-29</td>
<td>Presentations/Conclusions</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Final due no later than Wed., May 6, 5pm</td>
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