

Hate Crime

CRIM 325 – 001DL

Thursday 7:20 pm to 10:00 pm

Instructor: Adjunct Faculty Kevin B. Fornshill, MCJ, kfornshi@gmu.edu

*“Hate crimes are the scariest thing in the world because these people really believe what they’re doing is right”
Cher*

Office and Meetings

Due to COVID – 19 there are no opportunities to meet on-campus. If you wish to speak with me, please feel free to email or call.

Course Goals and Policies

This course is designed to provide an introductory understanding of the history and development of hate crime legislation throughout the United States. Discussions regarding policy and elements of hate crime enhanced penalties will be examined.

The course will ask the question, “What constitutes a hate crime?” and open for deliberation the views of law enforcement officials regarding the reporting, investigation and prosecution of alleged offenses. The motivation of extremist groups will be debated leading to the question, “Why do they hate?” Extremist propaganda and writings will be reviewed, including, but not limited to Mein Kampf, The Turner Diaries and the Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion. Basic investigative techniques will be discussed.

Please be aware of Mason’s policy requiring instructors to submit final course grades within 2 days of the final exam, and prohibiting instructors from changing submitted grades for any reason other than a computational or recording error (see page 37 of the University Catalog). This means that I cannot allow, nor is there any time, for you to do a last-minute paper or other extra work at the end of the semester to raise your grade. The time to do the work is when it is assigned, and the work to do is the work that is required as class assignments. There are, however, several extra credit opportunities available.

Another relevant Mason policy specifies that incompletes can only be given to students who are passing a course but cannot complete scheduled coursework for causes beyond reasonable control (see page 36 of the University Catalog). Because incompletes are to be used when students cannot complete *scheduled* coursework, I cannot grant incompletes to allow you time to do *extra* work to raise your grade. If some sort of personal or family crisis arises for you during the semester, and it provides a compelling reason that is beyond your control and prevents you from finishing scheduled coursework, I will be more than willing to work with you to take that into account, but you must let me know right away. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please note that according to Mason policy, “**Although many students must work to meet living expenses, employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities.**” (see page 33 of the University Catalog.)

Privacy Policy

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please also respect everyone’s right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

Required Readings

*“Outside of a dog a book is man’s best friend.
Inside of a dog it’s too dark to read.”*
Groucho Marx

Reading assignments are for outside the classroom. Be prepared to discuss the designated chapter at the beginning of each class. There will be selective in-class lessons. There will be time allotted for complete these assignments.

The textbook is **The Violence of Hate: Confronting Racism, Anti-Semitism, and Other Forms of Bigotry**, by Jack A Levin and Jim Nolan. Please purchase the 4th Edition.

You are always welcome to ask me questions about the readings or course work if you need clarification. Please complete the readings before coming to class, this will allow for a active exchange of ideas. Exams will also include material covered in class, including lectures, videos, guest speakers, and discussions.

Grading Scale

A+	97-100%	(4.0)	C+	77-79%	(2.33)
A	93-96%	(4.0)	C	73-76%	(2.0)
A-	90-92%	(3.67)	C-	70-72%	(1.67)
B+	87-89%	(3.33)	D	60-69%	(1.0)
B	83-86%	(3.0)	F	0-59%	(0)
B-	80-82%	(2.67)			

Course Grade Components

25%	A midterm exam
25%	A final exam
25%	Research paper
25%	Class participation

The Exams

“Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance.”
Confucius

The midterm and final exams will be conducted online. These will be closed-book and will most likely use a combination of structured response formats (such as multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, etc.) and unstructured response formats (such as short answer or essay). GMU student Honor Code is in effect during the testing process.

The final exam will focus on material covered since the midterm exam. Schedule permitting, I’ll try to reserve some time during the last class before each exam for a review session. I will answer questions to clarify the reading material, as long as the question shows that you have actually read the material and attempted to understand it on your own.

Obviously, the exams are to be taken on your own. ***Any evidence that a student used another person as a resource, whether that other person was in the classroom or accessed electronically, will result in a referral to the honor committee as a cheating violation.*** If the exams are closed book, then the same is true for any evidence that a student used any unauthorized hardcopy or electronic resource during the exam.

Make-ups will only be given under exceptional circumstances. If you know in advance that you will have to miss an exam, please notify me ASAP so we can discuss a make-up. If you miss an exam without notifying me in advance, you need to contact me ASAP to schedule a make-up. All make-ups must be completed within 3 business days (excluding weekends and holiday breaks) of the original exam date.

If you can provide written documentation from a professional (doctor, police, etc.) that demonstrates a compelling reason for missing the exam, and the reason was beyond your control, there will be no penalty applied for taking a make-up. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please remember the Mason policy about employment not taking priority over academic responsibilities (referenced above). If you cannot provide such documentation, there will be a 10-point reduction from your exam score for taking a make-up (cf. pg. 35, University Catalog).

The Papers

“I write to understand as much as to be understood.”
Elie Wiesel

One the following:

1. Read one of the following (list below), or an instructor approved book and write a seven-to-eight-page paper, double spaced 12 font (this does not include a cover sheet and reference pages) concentrating of the center core of the ideology that promotes hate.
2. Select a group or ideology, deemed to be extremist, that has been directly involved in a violence. Write a seven-to-eight-page paper, double spaced 12 font (this does not include a cover sheet and reference pages) in which you discuss the central theme of the belief system, crimes associated with that group.
3. Select a recent incident, that was identified as a “fake” hate crime. Write a seven-to-eight-page paper, double spaced with 12 font (this does not include a cover sheet and reference pages) providing the background of the victim/suspect, the offense itself and any relevant details. Explore why the individual lied about the incident.

NOTE: I will not accept about report about Jussie Smollett. This case has not yet been adjudicated.

4. Write to one (or more) of the inmates listed on Blackboard, who is currently incarcerated for a 'hate crime' or similarly related offense. Explore their motivations regarding their actions; *why they committed the crime they have been convicted of, how/why did they select their victim(s), their current feelings about their situation, and any other questions pertaining to the course topic.* Write a seven-to-eight-page paper, double spaced with 12 font (this does not include a cover sheet and reference pages). Include in your project a copy of any out-going correspondence and return response from the inmate (again, these pages do not count toward the seven to eight pages for the final project).

NOTE: Since I consider this opportunity a valuable and unique educational experience for the student, I am giving extra credit for this project.

The papers are individual assignments, meaning you should do the work on your own.

This paper is due by midnight May 8^h, 2021.

Email me your final product.

I will assess a penalty for papers received after the agreed due date.

Reading List:

The White Man's Bible

Mein Kampf

The International Jew

The Turner Diaries

Hunter

The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion

ANTIFA: The Anti-Fascist Handbook

Translating Anarchy

**If you select the inmate project there are specific guidelines you must adhere to:*

All return letters from the inmate will be addressed in this matter:

*(your name)
c/o Kevin Fornshill
George Mason University
Department of Criminology, Law and Society
354 Enterprise Hall
4400 University Drive
MS 4F4
Fairfax, VA 22030*

You are not to exchange emails or telephone calls with the inmate

You are not to offer money (or anything of value), three-way correspondence (writing to another person care of the inmate) or personal information to the inmate

The inmates are not to ask you personal questions and are not ask you to provide intimate details or a description of yourself

Failure to comply may/will result in a failing grade, removal from class and having the inmate dropped from the project.

Level of Effort: Your Participation, Your Learning Experience, and Your Grade

“Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential.”
Winston Churchill

With COVID – 19 restrictions in place at the university since Spring 2020, the educational process is challenging. As such, you will be responsible for responding to Blackboard discussion questions and emails sent to you.

Finally, to add to this semester challenges, students will be sent “scavenger hunt” questions.

You will be graded on your response to a 1) a question submitted to you, or 2) must conduct research on a topic. The grade of a scavenger hunt question can range from 1 to 5 points.

I want to stimulate open dialogue and debate. The Socratic method comes to mind. I want to generate critical thinking. So, participation is critical! Be prepared to debate and defend your point of view.

All opinions are to be respected. Come to class, pay attention and talk. Take notes and read the material. Since 25% of your course grade is class participation, participate!

Participation is to include in-class discussions and postings on Blackboard. I cannot make someone actively participates but remember that this counts for 25% of your overall grade.

I will make a screen capture of the participants logged on during class time. I will base my attendance record on that screen capture. Furthermore, I keep a record of those who ask and answer questions.

I do take classroom attendance. Failure to appear in class will result in contact from me seeking an explanation regarding your absence. Lack of attendance, without an authorized excuse will be reflected in your final grade.

Part of the learning process will include audio and video recordings obtained from online sources. Some these sources include extremist individuals and Web Sites. These recordings have not been edited, and as such may be deemed offensive. It is not my intention to offend anyone, but rather to share experiences and information.

I do not advocate or condone any ideology or point of view expressed in these recordings. These are simply for instructional purposes and familiarization.

In conducting any research online, whether for classroom discussion or written presentation, I do not recognize Wikipedia as a legitimate source of information.

I do not allow my classroom presentations to be audio or video recorded. There is no need to do so since all PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Blackboard at the conclusion of each class. I am a private citizen, please respect my wishes.

You are all university students, so I expect that level of effort in your final project. Though I grant some leeway for simple grammatical or spelling errors, if your work product lacks quality and college-level achievement, your grade will reflect what I read.

I am not seeking personal opinions or political points of view. Your project is research based and should contain facts.

(* I do allow, and actively seek personal opinions regarding the inmate letter project. That will be the only instance will I grant a non-research-based point of view)**

Extra Credit Opportunity

You can earn extra credit points, to be added to your exam grades, through two optional extra credit opportunities.

1. From a safe location, for example a public library, review the Web Site of an instructor approved extremist group. Write a four-page paper, double spaced 12 font giving basic information and background of the group, as provided by that Web Site, ideology and your personal over-all impression.

Bad Weather and Other Emergencies

Check Mason's homepage (www.gmu.edu) to see if classes are cancelled for bad weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at <https://alert.gmu.edu>. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I'll make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. **Be sure to stay on top of your Mason email so that you can receive urgent information when you need it.**

University Services and Resources

If you have (or think you may have) a learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should: 1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474; ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) see me to discuss your accommodation needs. By Mason policy, I cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, seek assistance from the University Writing Center (writingcenter.gmu.edu). Your writing needs to be sufficiently fluent to make your meaning clear.

If you are in personal distress, you can get help from Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu).

If you are not a native English speaker and may be interested in linguistic and cultural enrichment services, you can contact Mason's English Language Institute (eli.gmu.edu).

If you'd like to improve your academic skills, you can get help from Learning Services caps.gmu.edu/learningservices. They offer workshops on the study cycle, effective note-taking techniques, individual learning styles, ways to prepare for exams, and effective time management. I've heard from former students that these services can be very helpful.

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

Enrollment Responsibilities and Deadlines

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the schedule of classes, see registrar.gmu.edu. The last day to add a class and the last day to drop a class without tuition loss is Tuesday September 3. The last day to drop a class with tuition loss is Wednesday September 18. After this date the class can be dropped by using a selective withdrawal option by Friday September 27 -- but you only have 3 selective withdrawals during your entire time at Mason, so use them wisely. Any other type of withdrawal requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

University Honor Code

The following is a summary of Mason's honor code; see the Undergraduate Catalog and honorcode.gmu.edu for additional information. Mason's honor code will be strictly enforced in this class and **all violations will be reported to the Honor Committee.**

The Honor Code of George Mason University specifically prohibits *cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing.*

Cheating and attempted cheating include "willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students." Examples include the use of unauthorized resources during an exam, copying off another student's work (with or without their permission), allowing another student to copy your work, using an assignment or test from another student who took the class previously, accessing tests or grades electronically for the purpose of getting an unfair advantage, and any other behavior that fits the general definition above.

Plagiarism includes "presenting as one's own the words, the work, the ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge." Examples include taking or buying a paper from someone else or the internet and presenting it as your own, and submitting as your own work a paper with substantial unacknowledged contributions from others. Information and graphics obtained from the internet (except for freeware clipart) must include source citations to avoid plagiarism.

Lying includes “the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work.” Examples include making up source materials or source citations in a paper, pretending to use an actual source that you didn’t really use, making up an excuse for missing a test or assignment due date, pretending you attended a class or an extra credit opportunity when you did not in order to write a paper or get points without justification, falsifying any written or electronic document, or presenting any other falsehoods through any method and in any context.

Stealing includes “taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of Computing Policy section in the “General Policies” chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials.”

Planned Course Schedule
(any necessary changes will be announced ASAP)

Dates		Special Notes
Jan. 28 Week #1	Introduction and overview of course What is a Hate Crime? What is a Hate Group?	Jan. 21, payment due
Feb. 4 Week #2	Origins: Where did these laws come from? Hate Speech	Jan. 28, last day to add class
Feb. 11 Week #3	Prejudice v. Discrimination The Nature of Justice, Gordon W. Allport Hate Symbols	Feb. 5 Withdrawal Period (100% liability)
Feb. 18 Week #4	Hate as a Justification for Violence Jack Levin & Jim Nolan (Select topic for research paper) Anonymity Discussions involving the textbook	Feb. 11 Withdrawal Period (50% liability)
Feb. 25 Week #5	Wisconsin v. Mitchell <i>Federal v. State Law</i> <i>Are hate crime enhancements unconstitutional?</i> <i>Legal Precedent</i> MIDTERM REVIEW	
March 4 Week #6	<u>Midterm</u>	
March 11 Week #7	Dehumanization Targets: Who Are the Victims?	
March 18 Week #8	The “Thought Police”? Law Enforcement’s view of hate crimes	

Dates		Special Notes
March 25 Week #9	False Reports	
April 1 Week #10	The Offenders	
April 8 Week #11	Enforcement and Investigate Uniform Crime Report, Hate Crime Statistics	
April 15 Week #12	Breaking the Cycle	
April 29 Week #13	Miscellaneous	
May 6 Week #14	FINAL REVIEW	
May	Final exam (regular time and place)	

****All papers and projects due by midnight, May 8th, 2021.**

No further postings on Blackboard will be allowed after midnight on May 8th, 2021.

May 10th Final Exam online, time to be determined