



Sociology 3349f (570)
Hate Crimes
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: J. Michalski
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

The course analyzes "hate crimes" from a sociological perspective by first exploring the meaning and legal definitions of hate crimes. The bulk of the course examines the empirical, historical, and theoretical issues involved in the social construction of hate crimes, why people engage in such crimes, and the legal responses.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 3329F/G](#) if taken in 2019-2020.

Prerequisite(s): [Sociology 2266A/B](#), and third or fourth year standing in a Sociology or Criminology module.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50
Breadth: Category A
Subject Code: SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Hate Crimes

Sociology 3349F, Section 570 (Fall 2025)

**King's University College at Western University
Department of Sociology**

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Instructor: Joseph H. Michalski (jmichal2@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30am, Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am, Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm

***Prerequisites:** Sociology 1020/1021E, plus third-year or fourth-year standing in one of the Sociology or Criminology modules.

***Anti-Requisites:** Sociology 3329F/G if taken in 2019-2020.

***Please note:** Students must ensure that their course selections are appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken. Consult an academic counselor to clarify if needed. If students do not have the prerequisites for a course (and no written special permission from the Dean to enroll in the course), then the University reserves the right to cancel their registration in the course. This decision may not be appealed. The normal financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the current course, we will examine “hate crimes” from a sociological perspective first by exploring the meaning and legal definitions of such crimes. The bulk of the course examines the empirical, historical, and theoretical issues involved in the social construction of hate crimes, why people engage in such crimes, what groups are targeted most often, and the legal system’s responses. While the research considered will be mainly from the North American context (especially Canada and the U.S.), some cross-cultural and international materials will be referenced as well.

Key Course Learning Objectives. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Discuss the legal evolution of “hate crimes” in Canada, as well as the historical context and key issues that have affected changes in the law with respect to criminalizing certain behaviors.
- Describe the general patterns and trends of hate crimes, including the key demographic and socio-cultural facets associated with both perpetrators and victims.
- Identify the most significant groups and ideologies associated with hate crimes, as well as the consequences for (and experiences of) those targeted by such crimes.
- Evaluate social scientific theories of hate crimes, the social contexts, and social psychological mechanisms argued to be most important for explaining why such crimes occur.
- Apply the requisite analytical tools to think clearly and reflexively about the interrelationships of human prejudice, intolerance, and hate crime.
- Understand the nature of social control, law enforcement, and public policy initiatives designed in response to hate crimes.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS

The following book is required reading and available online (and at the bookstore):

Eberhardt, Jennifer. 2019. *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*. New York: Viking. **Cost: \$25.99**

In addition, several required readings will be available on-line as “supplemental readings” and posted on the OWL system (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>). Students must know their unique UWO username and password. Anyone who has forgotten the information should consult the Registrar’s office immediately (do not ask the instructor, as the key information can only be obtained from the Registrar or IT specialists at the university).

COURSE EVALUATION

Class Participation (10%): Students will receive a mark for regular attendance. Everyone should attend all of the seminars and participate actively to earn maximum credit.

Two Mini-Assignments (20%): Each student must complete four mini-assignments that mainly involve a two-page analytic summary of selected reading materials and class discussions. Each assignment will be worth 10% (due on September 29 and November 17).

Midterm Exam (20%): There will be a midterm exam on October 20, in the form of “objective” questions covering the first five weeks of class (including *Biased*), along with some short-answer questions.

Term Paper (25%): Each student will be required to submit a 6-page term paper on any aspect of hate crime that they might wish to research. The papers should: 1) describe the nature of the hate crime issue being investigated and its relevance in contemporary society; 2) identify a general thesis and develop an argument to explain the phenomenon being investigated; 3) gather and report on some high-quality data and/or case studies from a valid public source (e.g., government statistics, crime reports, academic research, national surveys, etc.) with respect to important trends or patterns; and 4) discuss the issue further in light of the evidence and present conclusions accordingly. More details will be provided in class (due December 8).

Final Exam (25%): Students are required to write a final exam in class with a combined essay and short-answer format during the final exam period (December 11-22 as assigned by the Registrar’s Office).

GRADING ASSIGNMENTS AND WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

Assignments will be marked using the standard policies of King’s University College’s Department of Sociology. Assignments will be read “blindly,” i.e., without knowing the identity of the author. Please consult the King’s University College Academic Programs website for additional details. Students are expected to keep up with the readings and complete the assignments by the due dates. If a student must miss an assignment due to a medical emergency, please review the “Course Outline Policies” below.

SESSION OUTLINE

The following symbols are used to refer to the Required Readings in the Session Outline below: 1) “E” for chapters or pages from Eberhardt’s *Biased*; and 2) “S#” for additional *supplemental readings* (by number).

2025 SESSION OUTLINE: DATES, TOPICS, and REQUIRED READINGS

Date	Topic	Required Readings
Week 1: Sep. 8	Hate Crimes Course Overview: <i>Definitional and Conceptual Issues</i>	S#1, S#2
Week 2: Sep. 15	Hate Crimes and the Law: <i>Legal Evolution and the Status of Hate Crimes</i>	S#3, S#4
Week 3: Sep. 22	Studying and Documenting Hate Crimes: <i>Methodological Issues and Crime Statistics</i>	S#5, S#6
Week 4: Sep. 29	Explaining Hate Crimes I: <i>Human Development, Socialization and Social Psychology</i> Mini-Assignment #1 Due	E: Chapters 1–6
Week 5: Oct. 6	Explaining Hate Crimes II: <i>Group Dynamics, Social Contact and Network Influences</i>	E: Chapters 7–10, Conclusion S#7
Week 6: Oct. 13	Thanksgiving (no classes)	
Week 7: Oct. 20	Mid-Term Exam	
Week 8: Oct. 27	Explaining Hate Crimes III: <i>Cultural Contexts and Ideological Justifications</i>	S#8, S#9
Week 9: Nov. 3	Fall Reading Week (no classes)	
Week 10: Nov. 10	Ethnocultural Violence: <i>Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry</i>	S#10, S#11
Week 11: Nov. 17	Religious and Ideological Intolerance: <i>Anti-Semitic and Anti-Muslim Bigotry</i> Mini-Assignment #2 Due	S#12, S#13
Week 12: Nov. 24	Gendered Hatred: <i>Social Constructions of Gender, Identities, and Differences</i>	S#14, S#15
Week 13: Dec. 1	Sexual Orientation and Hate Crimes: <i>Homophobia and Transphobia</i>	S#16, S#17
Week 14: Dec. 8	Cultural Marginalization and Powerlessness: <i>Disability, Homelessness, and Constructing Cultural “Others”</i> Term Papers Due	S#18, S#19
Dec. 11-22	Final Exam Period	TBA

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.