Social Conflict  
Sociology 3660  
Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 to 4:00  
Spring Semester 2017

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Office Hours: Tuesday / Thursday, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, or by appointment

Course Description for Catalog:

Comparative and historical examination of conflict between social groups, including groups defined by race, ethnicity, and class. Readings combine classical and contemporary perspectives on collective conflict with in-depth analyses of historical and contemporary episodes. We discuss various ways in which conflicts can manifest, including the formation and hardening of divisive attitudes, discriminatory lawmaking and criminal justice practices, riots and collective violence, residential segregation, and sustained social movement activity. Prerequisite: introductory course in sociology or consent of the instructor.

Course Description

This course explores the related (but distinct) concepts of race and ethnicity and their relation to intergroup conflict in American society from a comparative and historical perspective. Readings focus on the varied ways in which conflict can occur, such as the formation and hardening of divisive attitudes, discriminatory lawmaking and institutional practices, riots and violence, and sustained social movement activity. To make sense of these varied conflict processes, we will explore both theoretical perspectives and case studies of different episodes of racial and ethnic conflict in American history. By design, close readings of the course material will be central to doing well in the class as will active participation in the classroom discussion.

Required Texts (available in the campus book store)

1. Sven Lindqvist. 2007. “Exterminate All the Brutes”: One Man’s Odyssey into the Heart of Darkness and the Origins of European Genocide
5. Marc Lamont Hill. 2016. Nobody: Casualties of America’s War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond.
Other Readings

Additional reading assignments will be posted on the course Blackboard, inside the Course Documents folder, organized by author’s last name and date the reading is assigned. I will notify you via email when readings are available on the Blackboard site.

Assignments and Grading

5 short reading response papers – 50 points (10 each)

- On the second day of class (Thursday 1-19) I will circulate a sign-up sheet, on which you will pick five class dates where you will submit reading response papers. Papers should be **one-to-two pages in length**, and should critically address and summarize issues introduced in the class reading for that day. You will then use these ideas to **lead class discussion** on the readings for that day (don’t worry, I’ll chime in too). Papers are **due by 12 pm (noon)** on each day of class that you have signed up for, and can be submitted online via the course Blackboard.

Final Research Paper – 40 points

- You will apply the theoretical concepts and empirical insights from the class readings to a particular case of intergroup conflict, historical or contemporary. You can select one of the subjects covered in the class for further investigation, or select one from outside readings, based on your own interests. I am happy to work together with you to find a topic that is interesting and meaningful to you. A **one-page abstract of the proposed paper, reviewing your case study and its characteristics of interest, is due by start of class on Tuesday, March 21st.** The final draft (10-12 pages, double spaced, references provided in ASA format) is due during Finals Week (date and time TBA). Both the abstract and final draft can be submitted online via the course Blackboard.

Attendance and Participation – 10 points
Class Schedule

WEEK 1

Tuesday, January 17
Class Introduction
Historical and Colonial Origins

Thursday, January 19
Selection from Lindqvist, *Exterminate All the Brutes*

WEEK 2

Tuesday, January 24
Selection from Lindqvist, *Exterminate All the Brutes*
Race and Ethnicity: Definitions and Dilemmas

Thursday, January 26

WEEK 3

Racial Formation and the Nation-State

Tuesday, January 31
Michael Mann. 2004. “Two Versions of ‘We, the People’” pp. 55-69 in *The Dark Side of Democracy*.

Thursday, February 2

WEEK 4

Race and Class: Intersections and Issues

Tuesday, February 7
Tomas Almaguer. 2009. “We Desire Only a White Population
Theories of Group Conflict

Thursday, February 9


WEEK 5

Tuesday, February 14


Racial and Ethnic Violence

Thursday, February 16


WEEK 7

Tuesday, February 21


Thursday, February 23


WEEK 8

Tuesday, February 28

Carrigan and Webb. “Judge Lynch on the Border.” Pp. 64-96 in *Forgotten Dead: Mob Violence Against Mexicans in the*
United States, 1848-1928

Collective Responses to Violence and Oppression

Thursday, March 2
Isabel Wilkerson, The Warmth of Other Suns, selection.

WEEK 9

Tuesday, March 7
Kenneth Andrews. Freedom is a Constant Struggle. Selections

Thursday, March 9
Kenneth Andrews. Freedom is a Constant Struggle. Selections

WEEK 10

Tuesday, March 14 – Thursday, March 16
SPRING BREAK: No class

WEEK 11

Institutional and Political Retrenchment

Tuesday, March 21
Davenport, Soule, and Armstrong. “Protesting While Black?” American Sociological Review

1 PAGE ABSTRACT FOR FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Thursday, March 23
**WEEK 12**

Segregation

Tuesday, March 28

Thursday, March 30

**WEEK 13**

Indigenous and Pan-Ethnic Responses

Tuesday, April 4


The Politics of Immigration

Thursday, April 6


**WEEK 14**

Tuesday, April 11

Supremacist Movements, Then and Now

Thursday, April 13
David Cunningham, *Klansville USA*, selections.

WEEK 15

Tuesday, April 18

Thursday, April 20
Mitch Berbrier. 1998. ““Half the Battle”: Cultural Resonance, Framing Processes, and Ethnic Affectations in Contemporary White Separatist Rhetoric.” *Social Problems*

WEEK 16

From Ferguson to Flint and Beyond

Tuesday, April 27
Marc Lamont Hill, *Nobody*, selections.

Thursday, April 29
Marc Lamont Hill, *Nobody*, selections.

FINALS WEEK

FINAL PAPER DUE

Date and time
TBA