

POU44653 — Causes, Political Consequences, and Responses to Hate Crime

Module Information	
Module Code	POU44653
Module Title	<i>Causes, Political Consequences, and Responses to Hate Crime</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Dr. Violeta Haas</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 1</i>
Contact Hours	<i>2 lectures per week</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>Hate crime is on the rise, and so is support for political violence. Rooted in systemic intimidation, bias-motivated offenses are generally viewed as qualitatively distinct in their causes and effects. Compared to their non-bias-motivated counterparts, hate crimes strike thrice. First, by targeting the immediate victim; second, by sending a “message” to the victim’s perceived community; and third, by calling into question a society’s commitment to inclusion, equity, and tolerance. As such, hate crime poses a serious threat to democratic ideals and to the complex challenge of maintaining and strengthening peaceful coexistence. In this course, we explore the drivers, political consequences, and policy responses to hate crime through a quantitative lens. Drawing on empirical literature, we will investigate how social, economic, political, and institutional factors influence the prevalence of hate crime. Beyond causes, we will also critically examine responses, including strategies aimed at preventing these acts. The course will feature at least one guest lecture by another scholar in the field. In addition to theoretical knowledge, this course emphasizes practical experience with empirical research. We will engage with common datasets and learn about relevant research designs.</i>

Module Content

Learning Outcomes	<i>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</i> - <i>Demonstrate a well-developed knowledge of the empirical literature investigating the social, economic, political, and institutional drivers, political consequences, and responses to hate crime.</i> - <i>Critically assess the core theoretical approaches used to study bias-motivated crime.</i> - <i>Evaluate institutional strategies, legal frameworks, and policy interventions aimed at preventing hate crimes and mitigating political violence.</i> - <i>Apply theoretical and empirical insights to contemporary real-world instances of bias-motivated violence.</i>
Indicative Reading / Resources	<i>This is a selective list of interesting and useful references. The materials in the list are not part of the required readings but are intended to motivate/provide further insights for those interested:</i> <i>Miller-Idriss, C. (2022). Hate in the Homeland. Princeton University Press.</i> <i>Mitts, T. (2021). Anti-Muslim hostility and jihadi radicalization [Podcast episode]. In Tarik, Abou- Chadi (Host), Transformation of European Politics Podcast.</i> https://soundcloud.com/user-467531770/episode-15-tamar-mitts-anti-muslim-hostility-and-jihadi-radicalization. <i>Gerstenfeld, P. B. (2017). Hate crimes: Causes, controls, and controversies. Sage Publications.</i>

Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>30% Participation, 10% Position Paper / Problem Set, 60% Research Proposal</i>
Assessment Details	<i>I: Active Participation (Attendance, Readings & Weekly Comments)</i> <i>Active participation is central to this module. Participants are expected to attend and to have read the assigned readings prior to class, and should be able to engage critically with the material. Class sessions are designed as a forum for</i>

Assessment

clarification and discussion, not for extensive summaries and recaps of the readings. Participants are expected to upload weekly comments before class. These comments should focus on the required readings and are intended to promote discussion; they can be critiques, questions, or reflective thoughts. Participants may skip a week's comment using up to two Jokers throughout the semester.

II: Position Paper or Problem Set

Participants should prepare a short position paper for one of the sessions. In this paper, participants are asked to express and defend an opinion based on the readings—for example, by (dis)agreeing with the authors' key arguments, assessing their usefulness for explaining current political developments, or taking sides when readings present conflicting findings. You should be prepared to discuss the views you expressed with your classmates.

III: Research Proposal

The final requirement for the module is a research proposal for an empirical study. Participants will: 1) formulate a clear research question, 2) critically synthesize the current state of the literature, 3) develop a coherent theoretical argument, and 4) outline an empirical approach to addressing the question (including case selection, methodology, and data sources; full implementation is not required).

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None