The American public overwhelmingly endorses the right to free speech, yet half think that communists should not be allowed to advocate their views in public. White Americans overwhelmingly endorse the right to free association, yet one-third believe that interracial marriage should be illegal. Although many endorse the idea of equal opportunity for all, policies designed to assure open housing or equal access to quality education meet with lukewarm public support. Commitment to democratic pluralism is often shallow; moreover, several thousand times each year intolerant sentiment is translated into overt action—assaults, vandalism, criminal threats.

Intolerance and its implications for the operation of democratic institutions in the United States will be the focus of this class. Readings will include several "classics" in political science and social psychology, dating from the 1930s to the present. In addition to examining the origins and nature of intolerant opinions, we shall also examine behavioral manifestations of intolerance—discrimination and hate crime—topics that will lead us to inquire about the nature of the criminal justice system and the politics in which it is embedded.

Requirements:

Previous coursework in psychology is helpful but not essential. I shall require, however, that students have some background in American political history. An introductory course in American politics or an equivalent course in history will satisfy this requirement.

Grades will be based on a (take-home) midterm essay and an in-class final exam. The midterm will count 40% toward the final grade; the final exam, 50%. The remainder of the grade will be based on participation in class discussions.

Assigned readings:

All of the readings are contained in the course reader and four required texts, Race and Criminal Justice, Violence Against Lesbians and Gay Men, Race and Ethnic Conflict, and Portraits of White Racism. These books may be purchased at the Yale Coop.
coursebook annex. Supplementary readings contained in the course reader packet may be obtained at Tyco Copies (located at 262 Elm St.; phone: 562-9723).

The readings described below are divided into two categories, required and suggested. Naturally, you are encouraged to read as much as you can, including works that are not listed here. I am happy to suggest additional readings to students who may be interested in delving more deeply into the study of intolerance.

**Reading List:**

**Weeks One/Two (1/9-1/18):** Historical Perspectives on Intolerance

*Required:*

Lipset, "Prejudice and Politics in the American Past and Present."

Hofstadter, "The Paranoid Style in American Politics."

Fredrickson, The Black Image in the White Mind, Chapter 5, and excerpt from White Supremacy, pp. 150-162.

Comstock, Violence Against Lesbians and Gay Men, Chapter 1.

*Suggested:*

Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, Chapters 1, 2, 4

Cox, Caste, Class and Race, Chapter 16.

Davis, "Some Themes of Countersubversion."


Ramirez, "Racism toward Hispanics: The Culturally Monolithic Society" in Eliminating Racism

Trimble, "Stereotypical Images, American Indians, and Prejudice" in Eliminating Racism

**Week Three (1/23-1/25):** Change and Continuity, Part I: Are American Attitudes Becoming More Tolerant?


Mueller, "Trends in Political Tolerance."
Bobo, "Racial Attitudes and Behavior" in A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society, chapter 3

**Week Four (1/30-2/1):** Change and Continuity, Part II: Behavioral Manifestations of Intolerance

Feagin, "The Continuing Significance of Race: Antiblack Discrimination in Public Places" in Race and Ethnic Conflict

Garofalo, "Racially Motivated Crimes in New York City" in Race and Criminal Justice


*Suggested:*

Robson, "Violence Against Lesbians"

**Week Five (2/6-2/8):** Change and Continuity, Part III: Discrimination within an institutional Setting

Yinger, "Access Denied, Access Constrained: Results and Implications of the 1989 Housing Discrimination Study" in Fix, Clear and Convincing Evidence of Discrimination

Neckerman, "The Meaning of Race for Employers" in Race and Ethnic Conflict

Thurman, "Ethnic, Racial, and Minority Disparity in Felony Court Processing" in Race and Criminal Justice

Bohm, "Race and the Death Penalty in the United States" in Race and Criminal Justice

Rutledge, excerpts from The Gay Book of Lists

Berrill and Herek, "Primary and Secondary Victimization in Anti-Gay Hate Crimes: Official Response and Public Policy"

*Suggested:*

Patterson and Lynch, "Bias in Formalized Bail Procedures" in Race and Criminal Justice

Wilbanks, The Myth of a Racist Criminal Justice System

**Week Six (2/13-2/15) Contending Theories of Intolerance and Racial Prejudice: The "Dilemma" and the elusive "American Creed"

Myrdal, An American Dilemma, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 9.
Cox, Caste, Class and Race, Chapter 23.

Smith, "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America"

(Midterm examination distributed)

**Week Seven (2/20-2/22):** Contending Theories of Intolerance and Racial Prejudice: Classic Social-Psychological Interpretations


Campbell and Levine, Ethnocentrism, Chapters 3, 8, 9.

Stouffer, Communism, Conformity and Civil Liberties, Chp. 8.

*Suggested:*

Rokeach et al., The Open and Closed Mind, Chapter 7.

Sanford, "The Approach of The Authoritarian Personality."

**Week Eight (2/27-3/1):** Contending Theories of Intolerance and Racial Prejudice: Contemporary Disputes

Wellman, Portraits of White Racism

Bobo, "Group Conflict, Prejudice, and the Paradox of Contemporary Racial Attitudes"

Sears, "Symbolic Racism"

*Suggested:*

Race and Ethnic Conflict, Chapters 5-7

Midterm examination due by noon Friday (3/3), 124 Prospect Street, rm. 100 (mail room of the Political Science Dept.)

**Weeks Nine/Ten (3/20-3/27):** From Attitudes to Action: The Individual in a Group Setting

Lapiere, "Attitudes vs. Actions."

Milgram, Obedience to Authority, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 10, 13, 14, 15.

Zimbardo, "A Pirandellian Prison."
Asch, "The Effects of Group Pressure upon the Modification and Distortion of Judgments."

**Weeks Ten/Eleven (3/29-4/3):** The Individual in a Political Setting: The Case of Court-Ordered School Desegregation


McConahay, "Is it the Blacks or the Buses?"

Green and Cowden, "Who Protests: Self-Interest and White Opposition to Busing"

**Week Twelve/Thirteen (4/5-4/19):** The Consequences of Intolerance for Democratic Politics: Elite versus Mass

Prothro and Grigg, "Fundamental Principles of Democracy: Bases of Agreement and Disagreement."

Herbert McClosky, "Consensus and Ideology in American Politics."


Barnum, "Decision-Making in a Constitutional Democracy."

Rogin, "McCarthyism as Mass Politics."

*Suggested:*

Wade, The Fiery Cross, Chapter 8.

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