Course Description:

This course examines the varieties of political extremism in party politics, radicalized religion, revolutions and terrorism. We will examine both left and right extremism, how extremism is defined, who belongs to and who leads extremist movements and parties; what are the goals and expectations of both leaders and members of extremist movements and political parties? Finally, we will discuss how these movements and parties influence society and mainstream politics.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is for students to understand the complexities political extremism. On completion of this course students will be able to define political extremism, identify its most important characteristics, identify extremist movements and parties, the general profile of movement members, and some explanations concerning why these movements continue to exist. Students will be able to identify extremist language and rhetoric in its everyday usage and context.

Required Texts:


This course follows a seminar format. Students are expected to attend all class sessions prepared to discuss the assigned readings for the assigned class period.

No electronic devices including cell phones, MP3 players, or laptops are allowed in lecture. Use of electronic devices in class may result in an absence for the day and/or dismissal from class.
**Assignments:**

Assignments for this course will be a combination of writing assignments completed prior to the due date, and in class. Students will also write a research paper on an extremist party or social movement of their choice.

Think Sheets: Write one page discussing what the reading made you think about in your own life. Think sheets will be hand written and turned in during the class period.

Research Paper: Students will write a research paper 20 pages in length. Papers will follow the Chicago bibliographic citation style, 12 point, Times New Roman font, and include a title page and bibliography. Throughout the semester, students will turn in assignments leading to a completed research paper.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be based on your assignments, research paper, and class attendance.

- Attendance: 10%
- Assignments: 45%
- Research Paper: 45%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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**Academic Honesty:**

Academic honesty is an important part of every academic institution and student learning. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the policy of Andrews University. It is your responsibility to be familiar with University policy. The University’s Code of Academic Integrity may be found at [http://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html](http://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html).

**Emergency Protocol**

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.
Course Schedule

August 23:

Introduction

Aug. 25: Introduction
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 1 – 22; Taylor et al. pp. 1 – 12

Aug. 31: Theory and Empirics
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 25 – 54

September 1:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 55 - 68

Sept. 6:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 69 - 82

Sept. 8: The Secular “Isms”
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 85 - 114
Assignment due: Research topic

Sept. 13:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 115 - 139

Sept. 15: An Ostensibly Sacred “Ism”
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 143 - 160
Assignment due: Working bibliography

Sept. 20:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 161 - 185

Sept. 22:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 186 - 196

Sept. 27: Extreme Nationalism
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 199 - 218

Sept. 29:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 219 - 242

October 4:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 243 - 270

Oct. 6:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 271 - 303
Oct. 8: Conclusion
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 307 - 336

Oct. 13:
Reading: Midlarsky pp. 337 – 359; 360 - 376

Oct. 18: Violence by the Far Right
Reading: Taylor et al. pp. 15 - 56

Oct. 20: Anti-Muslim Violence in the UK; Ulster Loyalism and Extreme Right Wing Politics

Oct. 25: The Dutch Far Right; Youth Engagement in Right Wing Extremism
Reading: Taylor et al. pp. 105 – 125; pp. 129 - 144

Oct. 27: Right Wing Political Violence in France
Reading: Taylor et al. pp. 149 - 163
Assignment due: paper draft

November 1: Breivik’s Mindset
Reading: Taylor et al. pp. 169 - 182

Nov. 3: Still Blind in the Right Eye?
Reading: Taylor et al. pp. 187 - 208

Nov. 8: Far Right Extremist Discourses
Reading: Taylor et al. pp. 215 - 234

Nov. 10: Conclusion
Reading: Taylor et al. pp. 239 - 251

Nov. 15:
Paper Presentations

Nov. 17:
Paper Presentations

Nov. 29:
Paper Presentations

December 1:
Paper Presentations

December 8: Final Paper Due 12:00 p.m.