Instructor: Dr. Edwin Hodge

Course Description:
Using sociological theory and research, students will be introduced to the study of political extremism, with a focus on Far-Right extremist movements. The course is designed to facilitate critical examination and discussion about the rise, spread, and beliefs of both contemporary Far Right movements and their predecessors. This course will be delivered in hybrid format, with regularly scheduled, live-streamed lectures, with recordings posted the same day.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:
The purpose of this course is to provide students with a space to investigate the reasons behind the growth of Far-Right extremism in the North American context. By the end of this course, students will:
1. Be able to recognize the foundational anxieties and concerns of Far-Right groups
2. Be familiar with the core ideological convictions of many of the more prominent Far-Right groups active in North America, including the alt-right, white supremacists, incels, and certain religious fundamentalist groups
3. Be comfortable with sociological tools and methodologies used to study contemporary extremist movements
4. Be familiar with some of the principle strategies by which governments, social groups, and individuals challenge such groups.

Course Pre-requisites:
None, but SOCI 100a and/or SOCI 100b are strongly encouraged.

Topics May Include:
Social movement theory and history; political theory; theories of violence & authoritarianism; racism; sexism; homophobia & transphobia; xenophobia & populism; contemporary issues

Required Resources May Include:
Possible textbook: Futrelle and Simi, “American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movement’s Hidden Spaces of Hate (Violence Prevention and Policy)”
There will also be assigned readings each week consisting of scholarly articles available through UVic’s library databases