

Hate and Discrimination- Handout

History of the Holocaust

1) Read the following:

The First Amendment in the United States Bill of Rights states that *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the Freedom of Speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”*

We can sometimes use a word so much in our daily lives that it loses any real meaning. So it is with “hate”. We live in a society in which people do not just dislike something, they hate a particular TV show or fashion or movie or person. The hate we will be discussing throughout this course, represents a more hostile and single-minded anger and rage. People still express this type of hate through various expressions and speech in actions that brutally jar our sense of decency. It is the hate of several young men who dragged James Byrd, an African American resident of Texas, behind a pick-up truck or tethered Matthew Shepard, a gay male University of Wyoming student, to a fence. It is the hate of white supremacists whom bomb African- American churches and encourage blind disrespect and intolerance on the Internet. It is the hate of two teenagers whose suppressed rage exploded and killed several people at Columbine High School. It is the hate that drove a highly educated German nation and its collaborators to murder six million Jews. It is the hate of some writers who recreate history to deny the memory of injustice. If there is one message you should take away, it is that hate is unfortunately all around us and should NEVER be ignored.

-New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, 2002.

2) Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

- (a) When does “dislike” become hate and when does hate become dangerous and destructive?
- (b) How should government, legal institutions and you deal with hate?
- (c) Is hate best left expressed and exposed OR submerged and kept secret?
- (d) Is it possible to reduce hate or the potential consequences of hate?
- (e) Since the 1st Amendment protects the freedom of speech, ask yourself this, “Where do we draw the line between humor at the expense of others, just getting attention and hate speech?”

3) Now look over and analyze the cartoon handout.

4) As you analyze the cartoons, answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- (a) What is “Aryan Culture”? Where would one find it in the world or in history?
- (b) Describe what is being depicted in cartoon “A”?
- (c) What group also displayed such figures in their propaganda?
- (d) What is cartoon “B” saying about being “born White”?
- (e) How did you react to cartoon “B”?
- (f) Examine cartoon “C” closely. What is being said here and what is your reaction to this?
- (g) In cartoon “D”, what exactly is being taken back? From whom?
- (h) Overall do you find these cartoons to be examples of hate speech? Are the cartoons convincing? Threatening? Effective? Why or why not?
- (i) Do you think these cartoons should be against the law or should they be protected under the First Amendment? Why or why not?