

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
Sociology 3850 A01
(Term 1, 2010, 3 Credit Hours)
2:30-3:45 pm, T/Th
137 Isbister

Instructor: Andrew Woolford
Office: 327 Isbister Building
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: Andrew_Woolford@umanitoba.ca
Phone: 474-6058

The Politics of Restorative Justice:

This course introduces the topic of restorative justice, offering an understanding of this emerging adaptation to traditional criminal justice practice, which involves victims, offenders, and community members in healing the harm caused by crime. In so doing, the course invites students to reconsider restorative justice and its politics. Through an examination of restorative themes, theories and practices, three distinct ways in which politics affect restorative justice are explored. First, restorative justice is situated in a context in which political actors, as well as structural forces, either enable or obstruct its practice. Second, restorative justice is understood as a contributor to political power in that its practice helps govern individual and collective behaviour. Finally, restorative justice is described as a social movement requiring an enabling politics that will allow it to promote a justice that does more than affirm the status quo – it must aspire toward a transformative politics concerned with class-based, gendered, racialized and other injustices.

Required Readings:

Andrew Woolford. 2009. *The Politics of Restorative Justice: A Critical Introduction*, Black Point, NS: Fernwood Publishing.

Reading Course Package.

Assignments and Grades:

Participation:	10%
Restorative Justice Script:	10%
In-class midterm:	25%
Critical Essay/ Volunteer Essay:	30%
Take Home Final Exam:	25%

Class Participation (10%): In-class participation will be a major component of this class. On Thursdays students will be divided into small working groups and assigned the task of discussing and producing a brief written report on critical questions related to the restorative justice literature (to be handed in at the end of class or on the following Monday). A group mark will be

assigned to this assignment. Students must provide a medical note if they miss class and require a make-up assignment. I also reserve the right to lower the participation grades of students who regularly miss lectures. Higher participation grades will go to those students who both do well in the discussion groups and contribute to regular classroom discussion.

In general, it should be noted that attendance is required for this class. More than five unexcused absences will result in the student being debarred from taking the final examination and handing in the final paper.

Restorative Justice Script (10%): A double-spaced, 3-4 pp. Restorative Justice ‘script’ is due on or before November 4, 2010. In this script, students will imagine a portion of a restorative justice meeting between victim, offender and community. This may be a VORP, VOM, Circle, or Family Group Mediation. Students should seek to both demonstrate how the session might unfold, as well as the things facilitators and participants might say to one another to encourage resolution. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Midterm Test (25%): An in class midterm will be held on October 21, 2010. The test will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions and four paragraph-length questions (selected from a list of five options).

(Note: students are required to provide a medical note within one week if a test is missed and they require a make-up; otherwise, a grade of zero will be assigned.)

Critical or Volunteer Essay (30%): Students will complete a 7-10 page, research- (a minimum of 5 scholarly sources must be cited) or participation-based (based on observations gathered while volunteering at a restorative justice-related agency), analysis of some aspect of restorative justice.

Essays are due in-class on December 2, 2010. Late essays will be penalized three percentage points per day (weekends count as two days). A more detailed handout describing both essay options will be provided within the first two weeks of class.

Restorative Justice Take Home Exam: A take home exam of two essay-length questions (2-4 pp., double-spaced responses) will be provided on December 7, 2010. Exams are due on December 14, 2010 (please bring your exams to my office between 1:00 and 5:00pm – late exams will not be accepted).

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on ‘Examinations: Personations’ (Section 4.2.8) and ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (Section 7.1) found in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar.

Grading:

Cut-off points for converting percentage grades into letter grades:

A+: 100- 90%	A: 89-80%	B+: 79-75%	B: 74-70%
C+: 69-65%	C: 64-60%	D: 59 - 50%	F: below 50%

Course Outline:

What is Restorative Justice

Readings:

Week 1: Woolford: Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2: Reading package: Jennifer Llewellyn and Robert House. (1998). *Restorative Justice: A Conceptual Framework* (pp. 15-42 required, entire document recommended) available from <http://dalspace1.library.dal.ca/dspace/handle/10222/10287>

Theory and History

Readings:

Week 3: Woolford: Chapter 3

Week 4: Reading Package: John Braithwaite and Stephen Mugford (1994) “Conditions of Successful Reintegration Ceremonies: Dealing with Juvenile Offenders”, *British Journal of Criminology* 34, 2: 139-171 AND

Nils Christie (1977) “Conflicts as Property”, *British Journal of Criminology* 17, 1: 1-15.

Restorative Justice Styles

Readings:

Week 5 : Woolford: Chapter 4

Week 6: Reading Package: Rupert Ross (1996) *Returning to the Teachings*. Toronto: Penguin (pp. 5-28) AND John Parkinson and Declan Roche (2004) “Restorative Justice: Deliberative Democracy in Action?” *Australian Journal of Political Science* 39, 3: 505-518.

Restoring Justice Identities

Readings:

Week 7: Woolford: Chapter 5

Week 8: Reading Package: J. Scott Kenney and Don Clairmont. 2009. “Using the Victim Role as Both Sword and Shield: The Interactional Dynamics of Restorative Justice Sessions” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 38, 3: 279-307 AND Barbara Hudson (2006) “Beyond White Man’s Justice: Race, Gender and Justice in Late Modernity”, *Theoretical Criminology* 10, 1: 29-47.

Restorative Justice Contexts

Readings:

Week 9: Woolford, Chapter 6

Week 10: Reading Package: Richard A Wilson (2001) Chapters 1 and 4 of *The Politics of Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: Legitimizing the Post-Apartheid State*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Restorative Justice Criticisms

Readings:

Week 11: Woolford: Chapter 7 AND George Pavlich (2001) “The Force of Community” in H. Strang and J. Braithwaite (eds) *Restorative Justice and Civil Society*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (pp. 56-68).

Week 12: Woolford: Chapter 8

The Politics of Restorative Justice

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is November 17, 2010.