

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Selected Topics in Criminology:**  
**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

**Sociology 077.374 L01**  
**(Term 2, 2005, 3 Credit Hours)**  
**Slot 10, 1:00 - 2:15 pm Tuesday and Thursday**  
**214 Tier**

**Instructor:** Andrew Woolford  
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**Office Hours:** TBA or by appointment  
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**Course Objectives:**

This course focuses on community-based processes of 'restorative justice.' Restorative justice is said to be a new 'paradigm' in criminal dispute resolution. Its adherents claim that it heals rather than punishes crime, that it has the potential to transform human relationships, and that it can help build community capacities (e.g., establish helping networks). Currently, restorative practices are employed to deal with crimes ranging from minor shoplifting offenses to gross human rights violations; however, there exists a great deal of controversy surrounding these practices. Some critics suggest that restorative justice 'widens the net' of social control and brings the disciplinary force of the state deeper into communities. Others argue that the ideological underpinnings of restorative justice reflect a conservative, Judeo-Christian worldview. In this class, we will assess practices of restorative justice in order to gauge the promise and the perils of these popular justice processes. The broad question guiding our efforts will be: is a 'transformative' politics of criminal justice possible? In the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to the controversial application of restorative measures to crimes of genocide and war crimes.

**Required Readings:**

Gerry Johnstone 2002. *Restorative Justice: Ideas, Values, Debates*, Devon, UK: Willan Publishing.

Minow, Martha 1998. *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness: Facing Genocide and Mass Violence*. Boston: Beacon Press.

## Assignments and Grades:

Participation:	25 %
Restorative Justice Program Evaluation or Critical Essay:	35%
Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%

**Class Participation (25%):** 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 Tuesday). 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.

**Restorative Justice Volunteer Assignment or Critical Essay (35%):** Students will have the option to complete an essay on **one** of two term projects.

- 1) A limited number (5 to 7) of students will be given the opportunity to conduct volunteer research for the John Howard Society of Manitoba. Students may receive opportunities to observe employees of 'Restorative Resolutions' (a JHS project) in their activities. At the end of the semester, students will be asked to produce a 7-10 page summary and assessment of their volunteer experience to be handed in no later than April 7th (a later due date is provided to students who choose this option because it is expected that their volunteer activities will involve a larger time commitment than that required of those who select the essay option). Students wishing to choose this option will need to inform the professor no later than January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## OR

- 2) A 10-12 page, research-based (a minimum of 10 citations), critical analysis of some aspect of restorative justice. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:
  - Restorative Justice and the State: The Risk of Cooptation
  - The Problem of Community
  - Restorative Justice and Drug Use
  - Restorative Justice and Juvenile Offenders
  - Restorative Justice and Violent Crimes
  - Restorative Justice and Traditional Forms of Aboriginal Justice
  - Restorative Justice in Australia, New Zealand, the U.S., Canada, Britain or other Nation
  - Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence
  - Restorative Justice and Community Policing
  - Restorative Release: Reintegrating Prisoners into the Community
  - Restorative Justice and Social Capital
  - Techniques of Restoration: Circles, Conferences and Mediation

- Restorative Justice after War Crimes or Crimes Against Humanity

Essays are due in-class on March 31. Late essays will be penalized three percentage points per day (weekends count as two days).

**In-Class Exams (20% and 20%):** In-class exams will be held on February 24th and April 12th. The first exam will consist of multiple choice questions (approximately 50%) and short answer questions (approximately 50%). The second in-class exam will be comprised of two essay questions (worth 50% each). Exams are not cumulative.

(Note: Students are required to provide a medical note within one week if a test is missed and they require a make-up.)

**Academic Integrity:** Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on ‘Examinations: Personations’ (p. 28) and ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (p. 29) 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:**

**Part One: Understanding Restorative Justice**

*January 6-13:* What is Restorative Justice  
Readings: Johnstone, Chapters 1 and 2

*January 18-20:* The Roots of Restorative Justice  
Readings: Johnstone, Chapter 3

*January 25-27:* Restorative Justice and Victims  
Readings: Johnstone, Chapter 4

*February 1-3:* Restoring Justice and Offenders  
Readings: Johnstone, Chapter 5

*February 8-22:* Concepts of Restorative Justice: Shame Apology and Forgiveness  
Readings: Johnstone, Chapter 6

*March 1-March 3:* Implementing Restorative Justice and the Community  
Readings: Johnstone, Chapters 7 and 8

**Part Two: Restorative Justice and Genocide?**

*March 8-10: Between Vengeance and Forgiveness*  
Readings: Minow, Chapters 1 and 2

*March 15-17: The Troubles with Tribunals*  
Readings: Minow, Chapter 3

*March 22-24: Truth and Truth Commissions*  
Readings: Minow, Chapter 4

*March 29-31: Restoration and Reparation*  
Readings: Minow, Chapter 5

*April 5-7: Dealing with Past*  
Readings: Minow, Chapter 6.

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is March 18, 2005.