

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
Sociology 3850 A01
(Term 1, 2008, 3 Credit Hours)
Slot 11, 2:30 - 3:20 pm, MWF
244 University College

Instructor: Andrew Woolford
Office: 327 Isbister Building
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 to 4:30
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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. Our objective in this course is to critically assess through a sociological lens the potentials and pitfalls of restorative justice. This will involve an interrogation of both restorative justice theory and practice, situating both within their broader social context.

Required Readings:

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

Gerry Johnstone 2002. *A Restorative Justice Reader: Texts, Sources, Context*, Devon, UK: Willan Publishing.

Assignments and Grades:

Participation:	15 %
Restorative Justice Script:	15%
In-class midterm:	20%
Critical Essay:	25%
Take Home Final Exam:	25%

Class Participation (15%): In-class participation will be a major component of this class. On Fridays 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 (15%): A double-spaced, 3-4 pp. Restorative Justice ‘script’ is due on November 3rd. 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 Exam (20%): An in class midterm will be held on October 22nd. 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 Essay (25%): Students will complete a 7 - 10 page, research-based (a minimum of 5 scholarly sources must be cited), 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
- What Communities? Does restorative justice have a communal base?
- Restorative Justice for Drug Users
- Restorative Justice for Young Offenders
- Restorative Justice: Can it be used for 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 December 1st, 2008. Late essays will be penalized three percentage points per day (weekends count as two days). A more detailed handout will be provided within the first two weeks of class.

Restorative Justice Take Home Exam: A take home final exam of two essay-length questions (2-4 pp double-spaced responses) will be provided on Thursday, December 3rd. Exams are due on Thursday, December 10th (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’ (p. 27) and ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (p. 28) 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:

Weeks 1 and 2: What is Restorative Justice

Readings:

Week 1: Johnstone, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2: Chapters 3, 4, and 5 in the RJ Reader

Weeks 3 and 4: The Roots of Restorative Justice

Readings:

Week 3: Johnstone, Chapter 3 and Chapter 7 in the RJ Reader

Week 4: Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11 in the RJ Reader

Week 5 Restorative Justice and Victims

Readings:

Week 5 : Johnstone, Chapter 4 and Chapters 12 and 20 in the RJ Reader

Week 6 Restoring Justice and Offenders

Readings:

Week 6: Johnstone, Chapter 5 and Chapters 14, 16 and 24in the RJ Reader

Week 7 Concepts of Restorative Justice: Shame Apology and Forgiveness

Readings:

Week 7: Johnstone, Chapter 6 and Chapters 15 and 19 in the RJ Reader

Weeks 8 and 9 Implementing Restorative Justice and the Concept of Community

Readings:

Week 8: Johnstone, Chapter 7 and 21, 22, and 23 in the RJ Reader

Week 9: Johnstone, Chapter 8 and Chapter 18 in the RJ Reader

Weeks 10 and 11: Criticism of Restorative Justice

Readings:

Week 10: Chapters 25, 26 and 27 in the RJ Reader

Week 11: Chapters 28, 30 and 31 in the RJ Reader

Weeks 12 and 13: Restorative Justice, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity

Readings:

Weeks 12 and 13: Readings to be assigned (will be placed on reserve in Dafoe Library)

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is November 12, 2008.