

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
Sociology 3850 A01
(Term 2, 2008, 3 Credit Hours)
Slot 14, 2:30 - 3:45 pm Tuesday and Thursday
308 Tier

Instructor: Andrew Woolford
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Office Hours: TBA
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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 criticisms of restorative justice.

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:	20 %
Restorative Justice Script:	15%
Essay Outline:	10%
Critical Essay:	30%
Take Home Final Exam:	25%

Class Participation (20%): 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. 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.

Restorative Justice Script (15%): A double-spaced, 3-4 pp. Restorative Justice ‘script’ is due on February 28th. 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.

Essay Outline (10%): An outline for the critical essay (see below) is due on March 6th. This assignment will be discussed in class.

Critical Essay (30%): Students will complete an 8 - 12 page, research-based (a minimum of 8 citations, 5 of which must be for academic materials not assigned as required readings), 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 April 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 will be provided on Thursday, April 10th. Exams are due on Thursday, April 17th (please bring your exams to my office between noon and 4:00pm – late exams will not be accepted).

(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. 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- January 8 and 10: Johnstone, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2- January 15 and 17: Chapters 3, 4, and 5 in the RJ Reader

Weeks 3 and 4: The Roots of Restorative Justice

Readings:

Week 3 - January 22 and 24: Johnstone, Chapter 3 and Chapter 7 in the RJ Reader

Week 4 - January 29 and 31: Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11 in the RJ Reader

Week 5 Restorative Justice and Victims

Readings:

Week 5 - February 5 and 7: Johnstone, Chapter 4 and Chapters 12 and 20 in the RJ Reader

Week 6 Restoring Justice and Offenders

Readings:

Week 6 - February 12 and 14: Johnstone, Chapter 5 and Chapters 14, 16 and 24 in the RJ Reader

Week 7 Concepts of Restorative Justice: Shame Apology and Forgiveness

Readings:

Week 7 - February 26 and 28: Johnstone, Chapter 6 and Chapters 15 and 19 in the RJ Reader

Weeks 8 and 9 Implementing Restorative Justice and the Community

Readings:

Week 8 - March 4 and 6: Johnstone, Chapter 7 and 21, 22, and 23 in the RJ Reader

Week 9 - March 11 and 13: Johnstone, Chapter 8 and Chapter 18 in the RJ Reader

Weeks 10, 11 and 12: Criticism of Restorative Justice

Readings:

Week 10 - March 18 and 20: Chapters 25, 26 and 27 in the RJ Reader

Week 11 - March 25 and 27: Chapters 28, 29 and 30 in the RJ Reader

Week 12 - April 1 and 3: Chapters 31 and 32 in the RJ Reader

Week 13: Restorative Justice, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity

Readings:

Week 13, April 8 and 10: Readings to be assigned (will be placed on reserve in Dafoe Library)

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is March 20, 2008.