

Introduction to Restorative Justice
CRES 900 – Spring 2011

Instructor Information

Instructor: Timothy J. Johnson
Day, Time and Location: Wednesday 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM Room CL 168
Telephone: 301-919-8620 (work and home)
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Office Hours: I can meet before or after class – please let me know in advance.

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to the fundamental principles and practice of restorative justice. The course explores the needs and roles of key stakeholders (victims, offenders, communities, justice system), outlines the basic principles and values of restorative justice and introduces some of the primary models of practice. The Course will pay particular attention to multicultural perspectives. A special emphasis will be placed on how the theories and practices associated with restorative justice radically reframe the traditional notions of the American criminal justice system.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course the students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of the restorative justice movement.
- Distinguish between the theoretical foundations for a variety of restorative justice practices.
- Demonstrate knowledge of recent research on restorative justice.
- Apply restorative principles to situations within the criminal justice system.
- Demonstrate knowledge of trauma healing.

Texts

Pranis, K. (2005) The Little Book of Circle Processes, Intercourse, PA: Good Books
Zehr, H (2002) The Little Book of Restorative Justice, Intercourse, PA: Good Books
Zehr, H and A. Macare (2004) The Little Book of Family Group Conferences New Zealand Style
Intercourse, PA: Good Books
Zehr, H (2005) Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice, (3rd Edition)
Scottsdale, PA Herald Press
Yoder, C. (2005) The Little Book of Trauma Healing, Intercourse, PA: Good Books

Assessment of Student Learning (Required & Optional Work)

Midterm and Final Exams (100 points each)

Student's knowledge of the course material will be evaluated using take home exams containing all or some of the following question types – definition of terms, short answer questions and essays. Tests and all written material are due on a specific date in electronic format (two page type written 12 point – double spaced) and may be sent to either of the emails listed above

Article Critiques (2 @ 50 points each)

Students will locate and choose a scholarly article on the topic of restorative justice and write a critical analysis of the chosen article.

Journals (10 @ 10 points each)

The instructor will provide a prompt or set of questions related to the readings and class activities that the student will provide an up to response.

Small Group Project (100 points)

During the course you will be randomly assigned to a small group to work on a presentation on a particular aspect of restorative justice. Each group member will submit a brief (no more than two double spaced in 12 point pages) paper describing what you contributed to the group presentation and what the other members contributed.

Optional Work

Students wishing to earn extra credit may make proposals to the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to be on time for class. Participation in class activities is considered a vital part of the learning process. In cases where a student cannot attend class or will need to arrive late or leave early, the student is expected to contact the instructor to arrange for make-up work.

Classroom Demeanor

Students are expected to treat others in the classroom with dignity and respect. This means limiting personal conversations during class time. Cell phones are to be turned off or put on vibrate. Answering cell phones is not acceptable except in pre-arranged understandings between the Instructor and the student. Listening to IPODs or other electronic devices during class time is not acceptable.

Grading Scale

A	450 – 500 points	D	349 – 300 points
B	449 – 400 points	F	0 – 299 points
C	399 – 350 points		