

## DePaul University School of New Learning

### FA 389 Introduction to Restorative Peacemaking Practices Fall 2009

#### Instructors:

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#### Course Description:

This course will provide an introduction to the emerging field of restorative justice. The purpose is to present an overview of the restorative justice philosophy, principles and practices, including victim offender mediation, conferencing and peacemaking circles.

#### Course Objectives:

1. To provide critical awareness of the prevailing practice and philosophy of restorative justice with an emphasis on the awareness of the experience and needs of both victims and offenders.
2. To introduce and explore emerging “restorative” concepts of justice and application thereof.
3. To provide an introduction to the practices of victim offender mediation, group conferencing and peacemaking circles through exercises and simulations to practice facilitative techniques, skills and outcomes.

#### Competencies Offered:

- A-3-F Can compare two or more philosophical perspectives on the relationship of the individual to the community.
- H-3-D Can employ the skills of negotiation, mediation, or interpersonal communication in the resolution of a problem.
- H-3-G Can analyze the impact of social institutions on individual human development.
- L-7 Collaborative Learning.: Can learn collaboratively and examine the skills, knowledge, and values that contribute to such learning.
- FX Understands how restorative processes make space for dialogue and exploration of how participants in an incident, conflict, dispute or situation may come together to discuss what happened, how it impacted all involved, and determine how they may all move forward in a peaceful manner.

**Outcomes:**

- Understand the principles of the restorative philosophy and how the different practices encompass and embrace those principles.
- Understand the significance and importance of values to the restorative philosophy and how those values help determine the appropriate practice and approach for a specific community based on its challenges, needs and resources.
- Become aware of the philosophical and historical underpinnings of the restorative justice movement.
- Understand the impact of crime and the role of the criminal justice system on victims, offenders and communities.
- Appreciate how restorative processes encourage accountability, build community, strengthen relationships, enhance communication, and improve community safety.
- Ability to compare and contrast restorative justice with retributive or punitive justice approaches.
- Be better able to apply restorative techniques to his/her personal and professional relationships.

**Requirements:**

1. Class Participation: Due to the course format and schedule, attendance is essential. Absences are reflected in a student's grade. Students are required to attend all classes, participate in discussions, and read the assigned material prior to each class.
2. Journals: Written reflections based upon required reading and classroom discussion.
3. Final Class Project & Report.  
\*Please see attached Final Project Options Memorandum for further details.

**Student Evaluation:**

Students are expected to complete the required readings, a final project of choice, a final written report reflecting the objectives, purpose and outcome of the project, and weekly journal submissions. Additional reading assignments may be provided to compliment or support a visiting speaker throughout the course.

Grades will be based on an accumulation of points that will be converted to a letter grade or Pass at the end of the quarter. Students will receive points for class participation, weekly journal submissions, final project and final project reports.

Points may be deducted for missed deadlines, attendance and/or lack of participation at the instructors' discretion.

**Point System:**

Class Participation: 40 Points

Journaling: 20 Points

Final Project: 25 Points

Final Project Report: 15 Points

PASS: 70 Points

**Class Schedule**

Class One: Introduction/ Restorative Justice Philosophy & Practices

Class Two: Speakers

Class Three: Circles

Class Four: Speakers

Class Five: Conferencing

Class Six: Speakers

Class Seven: Communication/Conflict Resolution

Class Eight: Speakers

Class Nine: Class Projects

Class Ten: Class Projects, Debrief and Closing circle

## **Class Texts & Required Reading:**

The following reading is required per class schedule:

### Books:

- ▶ Zehr, Howard. The Little Book of Restorative Justice (Good Books, Intercourse, PA).
- ▶ Pranis, Kay. The Little Book of Circle Processes (Good Books, Intercourse, PA).
- ▶ MacRae, Allan and Zehr, Howard. The Little Book of Family Group Conferences, New-Zealand-Style (Good Books, Intercourse, PA).
- ▶ Lederach, John Paul. The Little Book of Conflict Transformation (Good Books, Intercourse, PA).

### Suggested Readings:

- ▶ Zehr, Howard. Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice (Herald Press, Scottsdale, PA and Waterloo, Ontario).
- ▶ Watchel, Ted. REAL JUSTICE (The Piper's Press, Pipersville, PA).
- ▶ Pranis, Kay; Stuart, Barry and Wedge, Mark. Peacemaking Circles: From Crime to Community (Living Justice Press, St. Paul, MN).
- ▶ Umbreit, Mark. The Handbook of Victim Offender Mediation: An Essential Guide to Practice (Jossey-Bass Publishers).