

## COURSE OUTLINE

### **Ethnic Studies 165 Introduction to Restorative Justice**

#### **Catalog Statement**

ETH S 165 introduces students to the principles of Restorative Justice (RJ) and its application to the treatment of human suffering in a range of contexts, including in educational settings and issues related to criminal justice. It explores the needs and roles for key stakeholders (victims, offenders, communities, justice systems) and evaluates the potential of RJ to fundamentally shift the way we understand and carry out justice. In addition to gaining a theoretical and historical background in RJ, students gain practical and introductory experience in applying restorative strategies.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Laboratory Units: 0.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0**

**Total Out-of-Class Hours: 96.00**

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

#### **Course Entry Expectations**

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- analyze short essays (at least five paragraphs in length) to identify thesis, topic development and concluding sentences, as well as traditional expressions used to increase coherence;
- evaluate compositions for unity, and sufficiency of development, and coherence, as well as variety of sentence structure;
- organize and write a thesis-driven, organized essay which is at least three paragraphs in length (paragraphs should have a topic sentence and at least five additional sentences which further develop that topic sentence with explanations or examples. These sentences must be in logical order and be connected by transitional expressions, where appropriate. Paragraphs must be tied together by appropriate transitions or other devices which provide cohesion).

#### **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- describe and analyze the origins of the restorative justice movement;
- explain the principles of restorative justice as a theory and practice;
- analyze the way in which restorative justice practices have been implemented locally and globally;
- analyze the ways in which marginalized communities have advocated for restorative justice to reduce harm in their communities.

### **Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48.0**

#### **Part 1: Justice: The Needs of Victims, Offenders and Communities**

Intro to Ethnic Studies & Restorative Justice frameworks (2 hours)

The academic and social value of ethnic studies

Restorative Justice and the law

Origins of Restorative Justice (4 hours)

Indigenous Traditions

History and Overview

First Nation Principles

First Nation Practices

Restorative Justice and Justice in Religious Traditions

Restorative Justice in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Koran

Reflections on Our Own Traditions

The role of victims in Restorative Justice (4 hours)

Experience of Harm and Trauma

Needs of Victims

Response of Retributive Justice and Restorative Justice

The Role of Offenders in Restorative Justice (5 hours)

The Needs of Offenders

The Journey of Real Accountability and the Problem of Punishment

Response of Retributive Justice and Restorative Justice

The Role of the Community in Restorative Justice (5 hours)

Needs of Communities

Addressing Systemic and Structural Injustice

Response of Retributive Justice and Restorative Justice

The Role of Punishment and Prison in our Society (5 hours)

History of prisons in the United States

From slavery to mass incarceration- 13<sup>th</sup> amendment

3 strikes and mandatory minimum sentences

The war on drugs- from treatment to punishment

Analyzing Different Approaches to Justice: Retributive and Restorative Justice (5 hours)

The Principles of Retributive Justice

The Principles of Restorative Justice

Critical Issues

Retributive and Restorative Justice: Our Experience and Response

#### **Part 2: The Practices of Restorative Justice**

Restorative Justice and Victim Offender Conferencing (4 hours)

History and Overview

- The Process
- The Experience—Role play
- Family Group Conferences (**4 hours**)
  - History and Overview
  - The Process
  - The Experience—A Video
- Circle Processes (**4 hours**)
  - History and Overview
  - The Process
  - The Experience—A Role Play
- Restorative Justice in Severe Violence; Restorative Justice and Large-Scale Wrongdoings (**3 hours**)
  - The Application of Restorative Justice to Cases of Severe Violence
  - Truth Commissions: A Study of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee in South Africa
  - Truth, Justice and Reconciliation
- Restorative Justice in Practice: Local and Global Initiatives (**3 hours**)

### **Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:

- classroom lecture and discussion;
- audio-visual presentation;
- student presentations and discussions;
- restorative Justice circles and conferences;
- on-line communications as a supplement to in-class activity;
- outside reading of articles and scholarly journals.

### **Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

- write a 3-page essay on the theory and practice of restorative justice in education;
- conduct out of class research both as individual or group projects (e.g. locate and analyze primary source documents and secondary source documents for essays);
- visit with local community organizations using restorative justice and write 3-page essay on their practice and how it relates to course content.

### **Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

- two to three essay exams will be required (e.g. discuss three ways that the indigenous origins of Restorative Justice have influenced the theory and practice of the field.)
- in-class participation in facilitating restorative justice circles and conferences;
- written assignments (e.g. propose a restorative justice initiative for an issue impacting your community).

### **Textbook(s)**

Alexander, Michelle. *New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Place of publication not identified: New Press, 2016. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 1595586431

Cayley, David. *The Expanding Prison: The Crisis in Crime and Punishment and the Search for Alternatives*. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 2000. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0887846033

De, Gruchy J. W. *Reconciliation: Restoring Justice*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0800636007

Hadley, Michael L. *The Spiritual Roots of Restorative Justice*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0791448525

Johnstone, Gerry. *A Restorative Justice Reader*. London: Routledge, 2013. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0415672341

MacRae, Allan, and Howard Zehr. *Little Book of Family Group Conferences New Zealand Style: A Hopeful Approach When Youth Cause Harm*. Intercourse: Good Books, 2004. Internet resource.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level

Minow, Martha. *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness: Facing History After Genocide and Mass Violence*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2009. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0807045071

Pranis, Kay. *Little Book of Circle Processes: A New/old Approach to Peacemaking*. New York: Good Books, 2015. Internet resource.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 156148461X

Ross, Rupert. *Returning to the Teachings: Exploring Aboriginal Justice*. Toronto: Penguin Books, 2006. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0143055593

Zehr, Howard. *Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice.*, 2012. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0836135121

Zehr, Howard, and Barb Toews. *Critical Issues in Restorative Justice*. Monsey, N.Y: Criminal Justice Press, 2010. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 1881798518

Zehr, Howard. *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*. New York: Good Books, 2015. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 1561488232

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- construct an argument and analyze material using supportive and appropriate data from diverse academic sources;
- formulate critical and reflective responses analyzing the principals of restorative justice as a theory and practice;
- analyze the impact of restorative justice practices at the local and global level;
- demonstrate an understanding of how restorative justice can provide an alternative to the punitive the legal system.