

Department of Law
Course Outline - Summer 2009
LAWS 4903A
Issues in Restorative Justice

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will engage an analysis of issues in restorative justice including the impacts of these processes for victims, offenders and communities; the role of apology and the question of forgiveness; accountability and evaluation of restorative processes; and the potential for restorative processes to realize promises of social transformation. We will be discussing such restorative processes as conferencing, sentencing circles, peacemaking in the realm of criminal justice, and the use of restorative processes in responding to gross human rights violations.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

Class Participation 40% This course will centre upon debates and discussions of the weekly topic; students will be assessed in terms of both quality and quantity of participation, and should note that no more than 10% of this portion of the course assessment will be awarded for attendance.

Class Presentation 30% Starting in Week 3 students will present in groups of 2-3 (depending upon enrolment) on an issue of their choice relevant to the subject matter of the course. It is expected that presentations will be thoroughly-researched, critically-informed, and no less than 20 minutes in length.

Issues Paper 30% Students will be required to compile a research essay of no less than 15 pages, on an issue relevant to the subject-matter of the course and informed by a reference list of no less than 10 sources, of which no more than 3 may be internet-based.

Papers will be Due Monday June 29, by 4:30 p.m.; submission of papers is via the Law Department Assignment Drop Chute, C473 Loeb Building. Papers which are not submitted in this manner, and which are not date-stamped by the Law Office, will not be accepted. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day.

MATERIALS AND TEXTS:

Dennis Sullivan & Larry Tiff (eds.), Handbook of Restorative Justice: A Global Perspective (New York: Routledge, 2006). ISBN: 0415353564 (available at Mother Tongue Books, 1067 Bank St., Ottawa; the text will also be held on Reserve at MacOdrum Library)

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1: May 11-12

Restorative Justice Processes & Practices - pp.17-146

Week 2: May 18-20

The Foundations of Restorative Justice - pp.147-206

Week 3: May 25-27

The Needs of Victims and the Healing Process - pp.207-268

Week 4: June 1-3

Making things Right: Extending Restorative Justice - pp.269-336

Week 5: June 8-10

Gross Human Rights Violations and Transitional Justice - pp.337-434

Week 6: June 15-17

Critical Commentaries on Restorative Justice - pp.435-494

Week 7: 22-24

Transformative Justice and Structural Change - pp.495-566

Please note: Failure to complete any of the course requirements will result in a grade of 'F' for this course.

Students requiring accommodations to meet course requirements should inform the instructor within the first two weeks of classes that these will be required, and contact the Paul Menton Centre for Persons with Disabilities to arrange accommodations.