Conrad Grebel University College

University of Waterloo

PACS 314-01: Conflict Resolution in Schools

Fall 2018

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-12:50pm

Location: Room 1300

Instructor: Dennis Gingrich

Office Hours: Upon Request

Phone: 519-885-0220

Email: dgingric@uwaterloo.ca

# Territorial Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

# Course Description:

Conflict, broken relationships and a sense of injustice are present in classrooms, schools and educational environments of all levels. As participants, regardless of our place - student, teacher, parent, or community member, we bring our own worldview as a filter to the events - causes, blame, punishment and resolution. This course will provide an opportunity to deconstruct one’s personal understanding, beliefs and interpretation of conflict developed from personal experience in learning environments. Restorative justice and conflict transformation will be assessed as alternative and/or parallel philosophies to traditional retributive approaches to conflict. Systemic imperatives (i.e. Ministry of Education mandates, board policies and school codes of conduct) will be reviewed along with current research on the effectiveness of various conflict management strategies.

# Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

• Understand restorative justice principles

• Delineate a personal worldview regarding conflict

• Analyze policy and procedure documents

• Develop a personal philosophy of education

• Comprehend the challenges in creating peaceful classrooms and schools

# Course Format:

This seminar course uses case studies as the stepping off point for dialogue and engagement. These

examples drawn from personal experiences of the instructor and participants will bring together the

theory and the practical, highlighting the messiness when a good idea meets the reality of daily life in a

school setting. Learning will be driven by the big (and little) questions that motivate participants to

understand themselves within an educational environment. Restorative justice and conflict

transformation strategies including circle processes require active involvement from everyone.

# Required Reading Materials:

* *The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education*, Kathy Evans and Dorothy Vaandering (campus bookstore).
* *Teaching the Taboo,* Rick Ayers and William Ayers, 2nd Addition (campus bookstore).
* Other resources provided by the instructor throughout the course.

# Recommended Reading Materials:

* *The Little Book of Restorative Discipline in Schools,* Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy Mullet
* Resources shared through out the course by the instructor and class participants.

Web Page:

This course will make use of a WATERLOO LEARN website. This site will provide general information for the course, study guides and additional reading materials. Important announcements such as the cancellation of class due to illness will also be posted there, so please try to check the site before each class, just in case.

# Course Requirements and Expectations:

1. Class Participation – 10%

• Participation involves actively contributing questions, comments and ideas that move

the dialogue forward as well as enriching classroom activities.

2. In-class writing assignments – 20%

• Throughout the course students will be given time in class to respond to a focused question related to the topic/discussion of the day. Your written response is due to the instructor at the end of class.

3. Reading Journal – 30% **(Due November 15)**

• Students are required to maintain a journal documenting resources – research, articles, blogs, books, TEDtalks, workshops, community lectures, etc. that you discover based on personal interest related to course topics.

• 1- 2 entries per week (20%)

• 4 – 5 page reflection paper on the found resources (10%)

**More information about this assignment will be distributed in the first week of the term.**

4. Final Paper/Project – 40%

• Students will choose either a written research paper (8 - 10 pages double-spaced) or an

arts based project.

• Draft outline (10%) - **Due Oct. 4**

• Final Project (30%) - **Due Dec. 7**

**More information about this assignment will be distributed in the first week of the term.**

# Submission of Written Assignments

All assignments must be submitted as an attachment through the appropriate Learn drop box, only in Microsoft Word doc or docx formats.

# Assignment Deadlines:

Students are expected to complete the assignments by the dates indicated. Extensions will be granted only under extenuating circumstances as determined in consultation between the student and the instructor, prior to the deadline. In cases where an extension has not been granted, a penalty of 5% will be incurred for each additional day beyond the due date.

# Grading Scale:

| Assigned Letter Grades | Percentage Range | Average Calculation Values |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A+ | 90-100 | 95 |
| A | 85-89 | 89 |
| A- | 80-84 | 83 |
| B+ | 77-79 | 78 |
| B | 73-76 | 75 |
| B- | 70-72 | 72 |
| C+ | 67-69 | 68 |
| C | 63-66 | 65 |
| C- | 60-62 | 62 |
| D+ | 57-59 | 58 |
| D | 53-56 | 55 |
| D- | 50-52 | 52 |
| F+ | 42-49 | 46 |
| F | 35-41 | 38 |
| F- | 0-34 | 32 |

# Course Schedule:

The following schedule may change from time-to-time to reflect the pace of our course and to

better refine the course schedule. Changes to this schedule will be announced in class and by

announcement on Waterloo LEARN.

**September 6: Introduction and Course Overview**

No Readings

**September 11 and 13: RJE – what are we talking about and experiencing?**

*Teaching the Taboo*, p. vii – 17

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education,* preface and Chpt. 1

**September 18 and 20: Why education?**

*Teaching the Taboo,* chpt. 1

**September 25 and 27: A Brief History**

*Teaching the Taboo, chpt. 2*

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education,* chpt. 2

**October 2 and 4: Beliefs, Values and Worldviewing**

*Teaching the Taboo, chpt. 4*

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education,* chpt. 3

**October 11: Just and Equitable Learning Environments**

*Teaching the Taboo,* chpt. 3

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education,* chpt. 4

**Oct. 16 and 18: Just and Equitable Learning Environments #2**

*Teaching the Taboo,* chpt. 5

**Oct. 23 and 25: Nurturing Healthy Relationships**

*Teaching the Taboo,* chpt. 6

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education,* chpt. 5

**October 30 and November 1: Repairing Harm/Transforming Conflict**

*Teaching the Taboo,* chpt. 7

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education,* chpt. 6

**November 6 and 8: Unknown Partners**

*Teaching the Taboo,* chpt. 9

**November 13 and 15**

*Teaching the Taboo,* chpt.8

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education,* pg. 100-110

**November 20 and 22: Other areas of Influence**

*Teaching the Taboo,* CODA pg. 133-139

**November 27 and 29: Topics of Interest**

TBA

# UWaterloo Policies

Academic Integrity:In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Arts: [Academic Integrity website](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/academic-standing-understanding-your-unofficial-transcript/ethical-behaviour) University of Waterloo: [Academic Integrity Office](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

Discipline:A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

Grievance:A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - [Student Petitions and Grievances](ttps://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70), Section 4.

Appeals:A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

# Other sources of information for students:

Note for students with learning differences:The [AccessAbility Services (AAS)](https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/) office, located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the ASS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Counselling Services: Counselling Services provides free confidential counselling, in both individual and group sessions, with qualified professionals to help registered students, faculty and staff with personal concerns, educational career decisions, and strategies to studies and exams: [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocs](file:///C:\Users\bmoscins\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\LEBR6SKA\www.adm.uwaterloo.ca\infocs), ext. 33528, NH Room 2080.

Mental Health Support

**On Campus**

• Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca). / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655

• [One-to-one peer support program](http://www.feds.ca/uw-mates/) offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services

• Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

**Off campus, 24/7**

• Free confidential [help line](http://www.good2talk.ca/) for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454

• Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880

• [Mental Health and Crisis Service Team](http://www.here247.ca/). Phone: 1-844-437-3247

• Set of [support services](http://www.ok2bme.ca/) for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 ext. 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of [ARTS website](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/get-mental-health-support-when-you-need-it)

Download the [Counselling Services Overview](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/sites/ca.arts/files/uploads/files/counselling_services_overview_002.pdf)

Download the [WatSafe App](https://uwaterloo.ca/watsafe/) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Accommodation for Illness: A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. More information can be obtained from Health Services and the form is available in [pdf](https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness).

The Writing Centre: Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence. Make an appointment or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit the [Writing Centre website](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre).