

**Santa Clara University  
Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries**

**Course Syllabus (Draft)**

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Office Hours: Scheduled via Zoom, as necessary

Mondays: Online synchronous class, 6:00-9:00pm

**I. Course Description**

Our world is a broken world, and we, the faithful, are called to do something about it. We can work together to bring hope and healing to the wounded in our midst. We are collectively called to live restoratively and bring people into right relationship with God and one another. We have the means, we have the potential, and we have an excellent role model in Jesus Christ. Each of us has been harmed, and each of us has caused harm, whether intentionally or not, and none of our personal stories are more or less significant than another's. It is time we examine our own consciences, be accountable to ourselves and others, reach out to those with whom we need to reconcile, engage in difficult conversations, and hear our individual call to be Christ to the world.

This course focuses on the needs of victims of violence and the responsibility of society to help them heal. It examines the experience of trauma, particularly that experienced in early childhood, and its impact on criminal and violent behavior, in order to imagine meaningful and effective opportunities for change. It suggests cultural changes that recognize the rights and needs of all those impacted by crime and violence from within a restorative justice framework.

Within the framework of restorative justice, we seek to repair harm through transformative encounters modeled by Jesus. A man who chose to lay down his life for our salvation and willingly submitted himself to be brutally crucified for our sins to ensure our eternal salvation. We are all the beloved, and yet we are all sinners. We are each called "to act with justice, to love tenderly, to serve one another, to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)" for that is what was modeled to us by Jesus in the Gospels. This is what is required.

American criminologist and father of restorative justice in modern times, Howard Zehr has said, *"If crime is a wound, justice should be healing."* Undoubtedly, violence perpetrated by human beings against the person(s) of another opens wounds that need to be healed, and it is human nature to respond to the suffering of those who have been wounded. Sadly, our current system of justice focuses little real attention on the responsibility for bringing about opportunities to heal. Focused instead on apprehending, convicting and punishing those responsible for wrong doing "in the best interest of the state," the needs of those harmed receive minimal attention and resources to ensure their needs are met. The primary value of crime victims and survivors is evidentiary in nature and is most visible when they are of some benefit to the prosecutorial team or political gain. Few receive assistance or accompaniment following an act of violence committed against them or a loved one.

This course will examine the impact of crime and violence on crime victims, survivors, and the community, and explore ways to address the needs of each in the afterlife of trauma. In addition, most who perpetrate physical violence against others are victims of violence and trauma, with many having witnessed violence in their homes and/or communities. While their personal victimization does not condone their violent behavior, it must be acknowledged in the process of confronting it. Those who have caused harm need to be held accountable for wrong-doing, accept personal responsibility for their behavior, learn alternatives to violence, re-direct their lives, and make amends to the extent possible with those they have harmed. This course will also examine the lasting impact of trauma, particularly that experienced in early childhood, on later criminal and violent behavior in an effort to create meaningful and effective opportunities for change. Further, continued racism, oppression, imbalance of power and access to resources, and systemic injustice continue to contribute to a culture of violence. It is imperative that we consider the impact of politics, economics, history and science on complex problems in order to find viable solutions. It is the collective responsibility of a civil society to examine the root causes of violence, be accountable to address them, and create opportunities for healing for those impacted by trauma. Intrinsic in addressing the needs of those most intimately harmed by crime is developing a culture in our society that accepts its collective responsibility for cultivating crime and violence. This course will examine cultural changes that recognize the rights and needs of all those impacted by crime and violence in a balanced and restorative way.

America is a nation divided and in need of healing and redemption. This country, stolen from its native inhabitants and built on the backs of slaves, has long neglected her responsibility to confess her sins, repent, and seek reconciliation. This course will encourage inquiry and dialogue into unresolved trauma, including historical trauma, and its continued impact on society. Students will be encouraged to confront their own personal biases, learn from the experiences of others, and examine where they are individually called to serve.

## II. Course Objectives

RJUS 222 will emphasize two learning outcomes: **Servant Leadership** and **Diversity Fluency**:

### **Servant Leadership:**

A commitment to identify injustices and developing skills to work individually and in collaboration with other ministries, in accompanying those in need and in service to the poor, the marginalized, and the alienated, both within and outside the Church.

### **Diversity Fluency:**

Awareness of and critical engagement with how one's own culture influences ministry, and then to engage in ministries that build the community of Christ and are sensitive to and respectful of all cultures and traditions, and individuals who vary by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and dynamics of wealth, poverty, and power.

In addition, students will be able

- To identify how ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) relate to toxic stress.
- To develop an awareness of the impact of toxic stress on children and consider ways to help build resilience.
- To examine the relationship between trauma experienced during early childhood and later involvement in delinquent and criminal behavior.
- To develop an understanding of the impact of crime on victims and survivors of criminal violence.
- To learn the diagnostic criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and consider ways to effectively work with people who have it.
- To understand the ripple effect crime and violence has on communities, and the subsequent challenge to become informed and work to prevent trauma.
- To develop a critical understanding of communities caught up cycles of victimhood and violence and the long-term consequences of unhealed trauma on society, and consider ways to break those cycles.
- To acknowledge the lasting harm caused by unresolved woundedness, ongoing trauma and oppression, and continued injustices on our ability to live peacefully as an interconnected web of people.

- To confront and challenge personal biases and fears related to racial healing.
- To deeply examine their faith and how it serves as a model for restorative justice and transformative healing.
- To individually discern where they are called and how we can best serve and/or minister to those in need of healing.
- To collectively consider the unedited recommendations of our Synodal process and become the universal and inclusive Church we are called to be.

### **III. Course Procedure**

This course is offered in the winter term of 2025.

The class will meet via zoom on Mondays from 6:00 to 9:00pm throughout the winter quarter of 2025 (see course schedule). *There will be no class on Monday, 1/13/2025.*

The class will include presentations from the instructor, class discussions of the assigned readings, circle processes and presentations with trauma-informed professionals and trauma-impacted persons, and participation in different restorative practices. This class will be highly experiential, and class attendance and participation will be weighted heavily in the grading process.

### **IV. Required Course Textbooks/Readings and Documentary**

Cone, James H. (2011; paperback edition 2013). *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.

DeWolf, Thomas N. and Geddes, Jodie (2019). *The Little Book of Racial Healing: Coming to the Table for Truth-Telling, Liberation, and Transformation*. New York, New York: Good Books.

Hervey, Katherin (2020). *The Prison Within*. A Documentary. (Note: This award-winning documentary may be viewed on Prime Video, iTunes, Google play, YouTube and On Demand; Running time: 86 minutes.)

Morneau, Caitlin (2017). *Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity: A Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice*. Collegetown, Minnesota: Liturgical Press.

Rambo, Shelly (2017). *Resurrecting Wounds: Living in the Afterlife of Trauma*. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press.

Yoder, Carolyn (2005). *The Little Book of Trauma Healing: When Violence Strikes and Community Security is Threatened*. New York, New York: Good Books.

(Note: Additional reading, supplementary readings, and video recordings will be available on the course Camino site. You are responsible to check Camino for supplemental materials (readings, videos) required in preparation for each class.

## V. Requirements and Grading

A primary responsibility in this class is active weekly participation. All students are expected to do the required reading, complete related assignments, and actively participate in class. A class presentation of the research you do for your Final Paper will be required.

1. A weekly one-page critical and self-reflective paper on the readings for the week due on the evening before the next scheduled class. Where questions are asked in the body of the required readings for the week, you may write a response in lieu of preparing a critical and self-reflective paper.

2. Final Paper:

Over the course of the quarter, you are encouraged to write a research paper on a pre-approved topic of your choice related to the course title, "Trauma and Healing in a Broken World." **(Topic Choice Due: On or before February 10, 2025. Your topic choice may be submitted via Email and must address a proposed thesis statement and annotated bibliography of the three additional sources you will use to support your thesis.)** You may select a topic based on an area of particular concern, related to your personal or professional experience, or to inquire further into a particular area of impact. (Examples include, but are not limited to, racial justice, the separation of children from their families at the border, mass incarceration, family violence, sexual harm, poverty, etc.) Your paper should be well-structured and demonstrate your ability to objectively analyze the problems you are writing about. You are required to include a well-developed thesis statement, which you elaborate upon in the body of the paper. You must include suggested policies or practices to address healing related to the trauma you choose to write about, including recommended restorative practices, and reflect on how a religious or faith-based understanding of justice may address healing (10 pp., double-spaced, font size 12, edited for typos and grammatical errors, citations, endnotes and a work-cited page, as appropriate). You are welcome to reference class materials and content, but must research at least three additional sources beyond the confines of the syllabus. You will be required to do a 10 to 15-minute class presentation on the content of your research, and address class questions. **(Final Paper Due: March 9, 2025)**

**Grading:**

Class Participation (30%)

Written Class Assignments (30%)

Final Paper/Presentation (40%)

The GPPM is happy to offer the assistance of Dorothy Suarez who works for our program to help to be sure that your writings reflect your best possible work. She is skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced having worked with many students to help them to shine. We think you will find her a delight to work with. Dorothy can be reached at (408) 828-9204 or [GPPM.Dorothy@gmail.com](mailto:GPPM.Dorothy@gmail.com)

**VI. Disabilities Statement**

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities) as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please schedule an appointment to meet with me. Students who have medical needs related to pregnancy or parenting may be eligible for accommodations.

While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources. The Disabilities Resources office will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and assisted technology. (Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible). Disabilities Resources must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The Disabilities Resources office would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks. For more information, you may contact Disabilities Resources at (408) 554-4109. (Note: Your Final Paper and related Class Presentation will serve as your Final Exam for this class; there are no written exams required, and your Final Grade will be determined by class attendance and participation (30%), completion of class assignments, (30%) and your final paper/class presentation (40%).)

**VII. Course Schedule****Monday, January 6, 2025, Class #1:****Introduction, Course Overview, Harm, Healing and Human Dignity: A Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice**

- Introductions
- Overview of Class
- Discussion on the Catholic call to Restorative Justice

**Required Reading (84 pp.):**

Morneau, Caitlin (2017). *Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity: A Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press.

**Monday, January 20, 2025, Class #2:**

**Stress and Resilience: Toxic Stress and Children**

- How Toxic Stress Affects Us and What We Can Do About It
- The Science and Social Causes of Toxic Stress
- Preventing and Addressing Toxic Stress

**Required Reading**

See Camino

**Monday, January 27, 2025, Class #3:**

**Stress and Resilience: Toxic Stress and Children (continued)**

- How Toxic Stress Effects Us and What We Can Do About It
- The Science and Social Causes of Toxic Stress
- Preventing and Addressing Toxic Stress

**Required Reading**

Refer to Camino.

**Monday, February 3, 2025, Class #4:**

**Childhood and Adult Trauma Experiences on Incarcerated Persons;**

- Childhood and Adult Trauma Experiences on Incarcerated Persons
- The Long-Term Impact of Violence Witnessed During Early Childhood

**Required Viewing**

Hervey, Katherin (2020). *The Prison Within*. A Documentary. (Note: This award-winning documentary may be viewed on Tubi (free); Running time: 86 minutes.)

**Required Reading**

Refer to Camino.

**Monday, February 10, 2025, Class #5:**

**Trauma Healing/Racial Healing**

- Defining Trauma: Causes and Types
- Common Responses to Traumatic Events
- Unhealed Trauma
- Trauma and Healing
- Resilience

- Historical Trauma
- Sharing and Listening
- Interconnected Paths to Healing

**Required Reading (179 pp.)**

DeWolf, Thomas N. and Geddes, Jodie (2019). *The Little Book of Racial Healing: Coming to the Table for Truth-Telling, Liberation, and Transformation*. New York, New York: Good Books. (99 pp.)

Yoder, Carolyn (2005). *The Little Book of Trauma Healing: When Violence Strikes and Community Security is Threatened*. New York, New York: Good Books. (80 pp.)

**Monday, February 17, 2025, Class #6:**

**Resurrecting Wounds: Violence in the Afterlife of Trauma**

- Touching Wounds
- Erasing Wounds

**Required Reading (70 pp.)**

Rambo, Shelly (2017). *Resurrecting Wounds: Living in the Afterlife of Trauma*. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, pp. 1-70.

**Monday, February 24, 2025, Class #7:**

**Resurrecting Wounds: Violence in the Afterlife of Trauma**

- Surfacing Wounds
- Discovering Wounds

**Required Reading (82 pp.)**

(Rambo, Shelly (2017). *Resurrecting Wounds: Living in the Afterlife of Trauma*. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, pp. 71-153.

**Monday, March 3, 2025, Class #8:**

**The Cross and the Lynching Tree**

- The Cross and the Lynching Tree in the Black Experience
- A Reflection of Reinhold Niebuhr, Theologian
- The Redeemed Christ in Black Literary Imagination
- “Oh, Mary, Don’t You Weep”
- Legacies of the Cross and the Lynching Tree

**Required Reading (92 pp.)**

Cone, James H. (2011; paperback edition 2013). *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, pp. 1-92



## **Monday, March 10, 2025, Class #9:**

### **The Cross and the Lynching Tree**

- The Redeemed Christ in Black Literary Imagination
- “Oh, Mary, Don’t You Weep”
- Legacies of the Cross and the Lynching Tree

### **Required Reading (73 pp.)**

Cone, James H. (2011; paperback edition 2013). *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, pp. 93-166.

## **VIII. Title IX Syllabus Statement**

Santa Clara University upholds a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please go to [www.scu.edu/studentlife](http://www.scu.edu/studentlife) and click on the link for the University’s Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy or contact the University’s EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie at (408) 554-3043 or by email at [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu). Reports may be submitted online through [www.scu.edu/osl/report](http://www.scu.edu/osl/report) or anonymously through Ethicspoint: [www.ethicspoint.com](http://www.ethicspoint.com)

## **IX. Academic Integrity Policy**

The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result of the student judicial process as described in the Community Handbook. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this, or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.

## **X. Academic Integrity Pledge**

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University’s commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

*I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.*

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see [www.scu.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.scu.edu/academic-integrity)