

**OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW SPRING 2005
AMERICAN CRIMINAL LAW & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE 5061-30
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor: Stan Basler, 530-2015 (24 hr. voice mail); 590-2470 (cellular)
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Required texts: *A New Focus for Crime and Justice CHANGING LENSES*, Howard Zehr. (Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 1990) 236 pages.

***RESTORATIVE JUSTICEE Healing the Foundations of Our Everyday Lives*, Dennis Sullivan and Larry Tift. (Monsey, NY: Willow Tree Press, 2001) 194 pages**

***The Impact of Incarceration on Families in Oklahoma: Implications for Policymakers*, Susan Marcus-Mendoza Ph.D. and Susan Sharp, Ph.D. University of Oklahoma for the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, 1998**

***FORDHAM URBAN LAW JOURNAL*, Vol. XXVII, No. 5. (June 2000). (excerpts)**

Other required reading: "Conclusion" pp. 135-140 from *Social Justice in the Ancient Near East and the People of the Bible* by Leon Epzstein, trans. by John Bowden (London: SCM, 1983, 1986)

"A THEORETICAL STUDY AND CRITIQUE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE" Kevin I Minor and J. T. Morrison pp. 117-131 from *RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES*, Burt Galaway and Joe Hudson, ed.s (Monsey, N.Y.: Criminal Justice, 1996)

Leviticus, Chapters 17-26 Exodus and Deuteronomy excerpts,*Holy Bible*

"Introduction" pp. 1-11 *OLD TESTAMENT LAW* by Dale Patrick (Atlanta: John Knox, 1985)

Miscellaneous Handouts from Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 11—Class will be combined with Prison Ministry Immersion, Saint Paul School of Theology and six seminarians will join law students. Students will spend approximately 15 minutes in filling out pre-course questionnaire. Each person will share with the group some personal background information and hope and expectations regarding the course. (1 hour) After break, instructor will present an overview of course including an introductory analysis of origins of law, hermeneutics, theology and epistemology. Lecture will also address post-modern scholarship and church/state questions. Pre-class assignments are Patrick excerpt (11 pages).

January 18—Pre-class assignments are Epzstein and “Leviticus,” Chapters 17-26, “Exodus,” “Deuteronomy” and “Matthew” excerpts from *Holy Bible*, and Zehr, Chapters 1,2,3,4 & 8. Class will focus on biblical understandings of justice.

January 25—Pre-class assignments are the Zehr, Chapters 5,6 & 7, *The Impact of Incarceration*, Sullivan & Tifft Preface-23. *Fordham Urban Law Journal* pp. 1353-1407. Class time will focus on the development of retributive, nation-state justice and theories about criminal behavior.

February 1—Pre-class assignments are Sullivan and Tifft, Chapters 2-6. Class will focus on the causes of criminal behavior and criminal justice policy issues.

February 8—Pre-class assignments are Zehr, Chapters 9 & 10 and Sullivan and Tifft, pp. 139-194. Class will involve a detailed analysis of the theory of Restorative Justice. Concrete restorative paradigms will be discussed as well as communities of practice.

February 15—Pre-class assignments are *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, pp. 1515-1540 and 1613-1619. Class will focus on concrete restorative models. A victim-offender role-play will be done in class.

February 22—Pre-class assignments are Zehr, Chapter 11, Afterword, Appendix 1 & Appendix 2, Minor & Morrison essay. Class time will focus on possibilities for and obstacles to the implementation of restorative paradigms and strategies for changed thinking. We will do a sentencing circle role-play.

March 1—Final Exam

Grades will be computed with $\frac{3}{4}$ emphasis on final exam and $\frac{1}{4}$ on class participation. Grading on final exam will be determined anonymously.