



Welcome to RJ101x

RH101x is a free, introductory course where you will learn about the history and impact of restorative justice in Aotearoa New Zealand and its relevance to you.

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of restorative justice, widely regarded as one of the most important innovations in modern justice practice. Drawing particularly on the experience of New Zealand, it traces how restorative justice has grown from small beginnings into a wider social movement for change across all sectors of society, including schools, families, workplaces and community agencies.

You will learn about:

- What restorative justice is and why it is such a significant development in recent criminal justice thought and practice
- How restorative justice emerged and spread around the world, and what the evidence is that it works

- The pioneering role New Zealand has played in incorporating restorative practices into its justice, welfare and education systems
- How restorative justice has grown from modest beginnings in the criminal justice sphere to become a global social movement for the creation of a more democratic, caring and peaceful society

This course is for anyone committed to a more just, compassionate and peaceful world. It will be of particular interest to justice professionals, educationists, social workers, community activists, conflict practitioners and policymakers.

What You'll Learn

- What restorative justice is and why it is significant
- How restorative justice emerged and spread around the world
- How New Zealand incorporates restorative justice into its justice, welfare, and education systems
- How restorative justice has grown into a global social movement

Course Audience

This course is for anyone committed to a more just, compassionate and peaceful world. It will be of particular interest to justice professionals, educationists, social workers, community activists, conflict practitioners and policy makers.

Course Schedule

The course is broken up into six modules. Each week the focus will be on one of the modules. The first two weeks of content will be available from the start of the course, and the following modules will be released a week early on Mondays at 00:00 UTC / 12 pm NZ time.

There is also an **introduction module** which runs during week one, and a **course wrap-up** module which runs during the final week. These modules contain information for starting and ending the course.

Below is a short list breakdown of each module.

Week 1: Why does this matter?

1 May to 7 May 2018

We begin the course by thinking about what “justice” means when crime occurs. We look at the formal justice system and consider whether it is able to satisfy the most important needs people have when they are affected by crime or wrongdoing. We introduce the idea of restorative justice and why it matters.

Week 2: What is it?

8 May to 14 May 2018

In week two, we dive more deeply into the origins, values and principles of restorative justice. We see how it offers a different way of thinking

about crime and conflict and new ways to respond to the needs of victims, perpetrators and society at large.

Week 3: Does it work?

15 May to 21 May 2018

Does restorative justice actually work in practice? What does the evidence say? How do we measure success from a restorative perspective? And what significance does it have for indigenous communities, that are often most harmed by crime? We will trace how restorative justice has played an increasing role in the New Zealand justice system over the past thirty years and the reasons for its continuing growth.

Week 4: How does it apply in schools?

22 May to 28 May 2018

Restorative principles and practices now also play a significant role in many schools. Here we will look at the concept of restorative discipline and show how restorative approaches, and restorative tools, such as circle processes, are effective in creating more peaceful school communities and enhancing student wellbeing.

Week 5: How does it contribute to building community?

29 May to 4 June 2018

Restorative justice places a distinctive emphasis on the role of the community in preventing and resolving harm. But restorative practices also strengthens communities by building caring and equitable relationships between people. In this session we will look at the role of restorative practices can play in workplaces and other social settings.

Week 6: Can it save us?

5 June to 11 June 2018

Restorative justice has now grown into global social movement for a more inclusive, peaceful and participatory democracy. We will finish the course by considering how a restorative framework can be used to understand and address entrenched social problems and communal conflicts and to build sustainable peace.

Course Components

There are several things you'll do over the six weeks of this course.

Written Content

You'll mostly learn from text material written by Chris, Tom and Haley. To help you with your studying, you can use the [notes tool](#) throughout

this course. If you select a bit of text, you'll be able to highlight the words and make comments. You can also find all of your highlights and notes on the Notes page of the course.

Videos

Throughout the written content, you'll be asked to watch some videos. These videos include interviews with people in the restorative justice community. You'll also be exploring different perspectives of justice through a theft re-enactment.

Activities

At several places you'll be given activities to help you to delve deeper into the topics that you're interested in. Some of these will contribute towards your [assessment](#) and will be clearly labelled.

Discussion Forums

Throughout this course, you'll be asked to respond to discussion questions related to the topic you're learning about. Each week we'll give you one or two discussion questions to think about. Even if you don't want to post your answer in the forums, we encourage you to answer the questions to yourself. We also recommend that you read and [upvote](#) your classmates' posts.

The forums will be moderated by restorative justice experts. We won't be able to respond to all posts, though, because there are a lot of you. Chris, Tom, and Haley will address some of the more important or

interesting topics raised in the forums in weekly blog posts. Feel free to use the [voting function](#) to help us find the posts that you are most interested in.

Discussion Forum Behaviour Standards

We want our discussion forums to be a fun and interesting part of the course that everyone can be part of. We therefore expect you to behave like you would in a professional environment, such as at work or school. You must adhere to the following standards of behaviour.

- **Respect your fellow students.** We will not tolerate offensive or abusive behaviour towards others in the course.
- **Critique arguments not people.** We encourage lively discussions of the course material, but make sure you respond to what your classmates are saying rather than how they're saying it.
- **Refrain from swearing and offensive language.** There are children taking the course, so please behave appropriately. Offensive language also tends to undermine the points you are making.

If you don't follow these rules, your post might be deleted or you may even be removed from the course.

There are also some guidelines for discussion forums which will make it easier for you and others to take part.

- **Avoid TYPING WHOLE POSTS IN ALL CAPS.** Some people read this as shouting. A few words as emphasis is ok, though.

- Use your best spelling and grammar. Some of your fellow students don't have English as their first language, and this helps them to understand you.
- Avoid unnecessary symbols, abbreviated words, texting shorthand, replacing words with numbers, repeating letters or punctuation. Again, this helps others to understand what you're saying.
- If you're using the main discussion board rather than the links that are in with the course content, make sure you label your post with the right topic. It helps us keep things organised and will help keep your post from getting lost.
- You have the option to make posts where your classmates won't be able to see your identity. Some of you might be more comfortable sharing your experiences anonymously, so we want to allow that as much as we can. However, our course team will be able to see your edX username even on the anonymous posts, as this helps us to keep the discussions friendly and safe for everyone.

Assessment

The assessment for this course is made up of several short quizzes or other activities which are listed below. To pass this course, you need to get an **average grade of 50%** across all of the assessments. Remember that by enrolling in an edX course, you agree to abide by the [edX honour code](#).

All assessments are due at **00:00 UTC / 12 pm NZ time**.

Section	Description	Percentage	Due
<i>Week 1</i>	Assumptions of justice survey	2%	11 May
	End of week 1 quiz	12%	11 May
<i>Week 2</i>	Harms and repairs activity	12%	18 May
	End of week 2 quiz	12%	18 May
<i>Week 3</i>	End of week 3 quiz	12%	25 May
<i>Week 4</i>	End of week 4 quiz	12%	1 June
<i>Week 5</i>	End of week 5 quiz	12%	8 June
<i>Week 6</i>	End of course quiz	24%	15 June
	Assumptions of justice survey revisited	2%	15 June

Upgrade to a Verified Certificate

Sometimes you want to take a course just for the sheer joy of learning something new. But sometimes you need to complete a course for a better job, a promotion, or a college application. A [verified certificate](#) from edX can provide proof for an employer, school, or other institution that you have successfully completed an online course.

Verified certificates require you to verify your identity using a webcam and a government-issued ID, so employers and schools know that you completed the course work.

It also helps us at VictoriaX to keep producing quality courses such as this one.

Certificates for RJ101x cost \$49USD. The last day to upgrade to verified is **Sunday 3 June 2018.**