Transforming Teaching & Learning Through Mindfulness Informed Restorative Practices

Syllabus—Spring 2018 January 15th - April 16th

3 graduate credits through Saint Michael's College

Instructor: Annie O'Shaughnessy Email: annieovt@gmail.com Location: CVEDC, 123 Ethan Allen Ave, Colchester, VT Hybrid Course using CVEDCVT.edu20.org/ online and In-Person Meeting Dates and Times: January 22rd 4-7pm February 19th 4-7pm March 19th 4-7pm April 16th 4-7pm April 10th Final Circle 4-6PM Optional

Course Description:

This course was developed based on the premise that most teachers and students want to be part of a learning community where students feel:

- focused and relaxed.
- connected and respected.
- engaged, curious and excited to learn.
- safe to take risks and speak authentically.
- supported to begin again after failure.
- challenged and willing to stretch their abilities.

In this course we will explore Mindfulness and Restorative Practices as foundational and interdependent practices central to developing this kind of vital learning community. While class meetings will be primarily experiential in order to develop an embodied understanding of mindful awareness and restorative work, online material and assignments will challenge participants to become fluent in the principles, science and research that support them. Emphasis is placed on each educator's unique goals and teaching styles, providing structure, resources and support for the tricky, often challenging work of teaching content while building community and attending to the social and emotional needs of students. Finally, participants will experience the power of Mindfulness and Restorative Practices as tools within a reflective practice, looking closely together at our teaching life.

Restorative Practices and Mindfulness can be seen as interdependent. In a classroom where a teacher practices Mindfulness, an environment of compassionate curiosity arises. From this compassionate curiosity a different way of responding to challenging situations and unexpected behaviors arises—externally and internally. This "different way" essentially expresses the basic principles of Restorative Practices: open and authentic communication with the goal of "righting wrongs," building or re-building trust and equity, and

strengthening community. Further, the success of Restorative Practices depends on a teacher's ability to remain a grounded, mindful, nonjudgmental presence while students develop the skills of relaxed, curious focus—both of which Mindfulness provides.

This course is for the educator or helping professional who is ready to commit to a full exploration of these principles and practices in a way that invites significant shifts in how he or she teaches, counsels or manages others.

Course Objectives

Participants will:

- Learn about the science of mindfulness.
- Review research related to how mindful awareness activities and restorative practices (RP) affect classroom learning, executive functioning and behavior.
- Learn how to talk to students and colleagues about mindfulness and RP with intelligence and spirit.
- Develop a personal practice of mindfulness in and out of the classroom.
- Experience the Circle Process and have opportunities to lead.
- Use mindful investigation and analysis to improve classroom management practice
- Design and implement basic mindfulness activities that are developmentally appropriate and feel authentic to the teacher.
- Learn how RP works to improve classroom culture, decrease behavioral incidents and increase positive academic risk-taking. (Looking at the role of shame, trauma, anxiety, attachment disorder and other challenges)
- Explore the many different ways RP can look in a classroom—from restorative communication and compassionate inquiry to circle process and collaborative problem solving.
- Explore how RP can be woven into content instruction.
- Understand how Mindfulness and RP work interdependently.

Required Readings and Materials:

To be printed out by participants:

- Clifford, A. (2015). *Teaching Restorative Practices in the Classroom 7 Lesson Curriculum*. Retrieved from http://www.healthiersf.org/RestorativePractices/Resources/index.php.
- Schott Foundation. (2014, March). <u>Restorative Practices: Fostering Healthy Relationships & Promoting</u> <u>Positive Discipline in School.</u> Retrieved from <u>http://schottfoundation.org/sites/default/files/restorative-practices-guide.pdf</u>

Provided by the instructor:

Rechtschaffen, D. (2014). *The Way of Mindful Education: Cultivating Well-Being in Teachers and Students*. New York & London: W. W. Norton & Company.

Highly Recommended Resource to Buy or Borrow: (Please contact me if you can't afford it or borrow it.) Boyes-Watson, Carolyn & Pranis, Kay.(2014). <u>Circle Forward, Building a Restorative School Community.</u> St. Paul, MN: Living Justice Press

Optional Reading:

- Salzberg, Sharon (1997) A Heart as Wide as the World, Living with Mindfulness, Wisdom, and Compassion. Boston & London: Shambhala.
- Willard, C. & Saltzman, A., (2015). *Teaching Mindfulness to Kids and Teens*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

Articles and Talks Selected and Provided by Instructor:

- Brummer, J. (2015, April 21). "Making 'Affective Statements' More Effective in Restorative Practices." Retrieved from <u>http://www.joebrummer.com/2015/04/24/making-affective-statements-more-effective-in-restorative-practices/</u>.
- Gattegno, S. (1978). "On Feedback," Educational Solutions Newsletter, vol.7, no.4.
- Goldstein, J. (2007, November 1). "Here, Now, Aware: The Power of Mindfulness." Retrieved from http://www.lionsroar.com/here-now-aware-the-power-of-mindfulness/
- Kahane, D (2010). "<u>Mindfulness and Presence in Teaching and Learning</u>," in Iain Hays, ed., Learning with the World's Great Teachers (London: Open University Press):17-22.
- Kamenetz, Anya. (2016, April 19). "<u>When teachers take a breath students can breathe.</u>" Retrieved from <u>http://www.npr.org/</u>.
- King, Linea. (2015, August). *Baby Steps Toward Restorative Justice*. Retrieved from <u>http://www.rethinkingschools.org/</u>.
- Masters, Kamala. (2010). "Compassion and Courage." Retrived from http://dharmaseed.org/teacher/99/talk/8459/
- Mindful Schools. "Research on Mindfulness." Retrieved October 6, 2016 from http://www.mindfulschools.org/about-mindfulness/research/.
- Noetic Sciences. <u>The Science of Mindfulness</u>, provided by the science team at the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Retrieved June, 2016 from <u>SoundsTrue.com</u>.
- Pranis, K. Circle Keeper's Handbook. Retrieved October 6, 2016, http://www.edutopia.org/resource/glenview-circle-keeper-download.
- Pranis, K. "Reflections on the Inner Journey of Working in Restorative Justice," Retrieved from http://www.PeaceAlliance.org.
- Saltzman, A. (2010) "<u>Mindfulness: A Guide for Teachers</u>." Public Broadcasting System. Retrieved from <u>http://www.pbs.org/thebuddha/teachers-guide/</u>.
- Sheedy, T. (2013). *Three Worlds Collide: Celebrating the alignment of Restorative Practices, Positive Education and Mindfulness in school settings*. Victorian Association for Restorative Justice. Retrieved October 6, 2016 <u>http://www.varj.asn.au/conference-papers</u>.
- Stanley, Claire.(2007). "<u>Mindfulness for Educators</u>." Insight Journal, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies. 26-29.
- Stanley, Claire. (2015) "<u>Grounding</u>." Barre Center for Buddhist Studies. Received during Buddhist Frameworks for Teaching and Learning course, Antioch University- New England.

Course Design

After the "Introductions & Preparation" week this course is set up in three modules for a total of 13 weeks. The first module is focused on Mindfulness, the second on Restorative Practices and the third is deeper exploration of the interdependence of both, alongside assembling resources to take away and writing a final learning statement. Online assignments due Thursday and Sunday each week by midnight for a total of approximately 2.5 hours of online work a week. Online work involves reading responses, responses to classmates' work and personal mindfulness reflections. Most responses are structured using an

"Understanding, Awareness and Intention" framework that will be described in detail online. Students will write a Learning Statement at the end of the class and construct a web page representing their learning, including resources.

Course Expectations

- Learn and practice mindful awareness activities 10-20 minutes a day, including the mindful pause.
- Log on to CVEDCVT.edu20.org/ twice weekly to complete written assignments. These assignments consist of posting substantive written reflections on experiences with mindfulness meditation practice, on experiences in educational contexts, or on readings. Each module concludes with structured feedback to the instructor. (*Attention to these weekly deadlines is very important. Failure to post your homework on Thursday will prevent your cohort group from responding Sunday.*)
- Log on to CVEDCVT.edu20.org/ the day before class meetings to check on class announcements.
- Complete reading assignments for each module, including reading and commenting on other participants' reflective assignments.
- Complete a learning statement, personal learning statement and web resource page for the course.
- Complete a course evaluation.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and participation 30%

Online Assignment completion and cohort response 50% Final Learning Project: Learning Statement, Action Plan and Resources Page 20%

Proposed Course Schedule and Assignments

(Subject to some alterations based on students' experience.)

Week	Content	Checklist of Requirements		
Introduction & Preparation				
Week 1 1/15 2 hrs online	 1/15 Pread course syllabus and ask questions via email. Log on to CVEDCVT.edu20.org and explore. 			
	Module 1:Mindfuhess			

Week 2 1/22 3 hrs class meeting 2.5 hrs online	 Class Meeting #1 Agenda: 4pm-7pm Introductions via the Circle Process - Why are we here? Review class syllabus and class process. Understanding, Intention & Awareness. Reading Responses written in class. Review of basic circle process Instructional and Experiential introduction to Mindfulness. Review of research: Introduction to the <u>The Science of Mindfulness</u>: And from <i>The Way of Mindful Education</i> <i>pp 24-36;</i> "<u>The Greater Good"</u> Circle up for reflecting & learning. 	 Online Assignments for the week Watch Sacred Pause (4:35) Read "Here, Now, Aware: The Power of Mindfulness" by Joseph Goldstein Read Foreword, Introduction and Part 1 of <i>The Way of Mindful Education</i> (1-23, 36-37) Content response and reflection (1/25) Read & respond to your cohort's work.(1/28) Over the next week try guided meditations, choosing from different resources: Gil Fronsdal - Introduction to Meditation Kristen Neff - Self Compassion HeadSpace - 10-Day free trial Tara Brach - Library of Meditations Or try out a meditation app: Insight Timer Calm Stop Breathe Think
Week 3 1/29 2.5 hrs online	 Online Content Goals: To learn the basics of mindfulness meditation. To establish a 10 minute/day mindfulness practice. To become more fluent in talking about mindfulness. To begin to understand the why, what and how of mindfulness in education. 	 Read Part II <i>The Way of Mindful Education</i> (40-85) Read "Grounding" by Claire Stanley. Read "Doing the Buddha's Practice" by Jack Kornfield. (Optional talk: Dharma RAIN: Working with Difficult Emotions.) Content response and reflection. (2/1) Read & respond to your cohort's work. (2/4) Optional for Meditation Support: Read "How to Practice Vipassana Insight Meditation" by Sayadaw U Pandita Write a meditation report. (2/4)
Week 4 2/5 2.5 hrs online	 Online Content Goals: To learn about how mindfulness has been developed and is being used in education. To deepen our understanding of mindfulness as an educator. To develop and reflect on your mindfulness practice. 	 Read Part III from <i>The Way of Mindful</i> <i>Education</i> (88-134) Read David Kahane's <u>Mindfulness and</u> <u>presence in teaching and learning.</u> Listen to Kamala Master's talk "<u>Compassion &</u> <u>Courage</u>.". Content response and reflection. (2/8) Read and respond to your cohort's reading responses. (2/11)
Week 5 2/12 2.5 hrs online	 Online Content Goals: To pause and reflect on our first three week's of learning as a group and individually. To identify one or more concepts, 	 Read Part IV from <i>The Way of Mindful</i> <i>Education</i> looking for applicable exercises. (135-end) Learn about R.A.I.N Review our work online and reflect on your

	 experiences or topics in Mindfulness that you wish to explore more deeply, or know more about. To reflect on your personal mindful meditation practice. (And the role of the Eight Worldly Winds - optional) 	 learning. In whatever format you choose, report on the results of your reflective process, answering the question, "What have you discovered?" *Write reflection on your mindfulness practice Respond to cohort group. 			
Module 2: Restorative Practices					
Week 6 2/19 3 hrs class meeting 2.5 hrs onlin	 Class Meeting #2 Learning Goals: use the circle process to reflect on our learning. to get an overview of mindfulness in education. explore foundations of RP: "Final Word" Protocol with Core Assumptions. practice mindfulness activities relevant to our age group. 	Class Meeting Agenda 4pm-7pm Connect and Focus games Circle Process for learning reflection Instruction on Mindfulness and RP in schools, history, research. Research and practice mindfulness activities for age group. Conline Work Read "The Intersection of Mindfulness and RP" by Annie O'Shaughnessy Reflections on the Inner Journey of Working in Restorative Justice Kay Pranis Read "Baby Steps Toward Restorative Justice" by Linea King Content response and reflection. 2/22 Respond to cohort group. 2/25			
	2/26-3/4 No Class				
Week 7 3/5 2.5 hrs online	 Online Content Goals To read and review past students understanding of RP To review existing definitions and expression of RP in schools 	 Online Work Watch instructional videos. Begin to develop working definition of RP with a first draft. (3/8) Respond to cohort's draft.(3/11) 			
Week 8 3/12 2.5 hrs online	 Online Content Goals To reflect on Week 7's works and create a presentation that expresses where you are in relationship to the foundational ideas and values of RP. To deepen your understanding of the basics principles, values and practices of RP. 	 Online Work *Write mindfulness reflection. Post presentations. 3/15 Content response and reflection and "cheat sheet" (see online description). 3/15 Respond to cohort's presentations. 3/18 			
Week 9 3/19	Online Content GoalsTo continue learning about and	 Last Reading Response □ Parker Palmer Subject-Centered Teaching □ Read Shakti Gattegno (1978). "On Feedback" 			

3 hrs class meeting 2.5 hrs online	 reflecting on RP and Mindfulness. To learn about and practice Restorative Communication To familiarize yourself with different RJ resources. To introduce the Final Learning Project. To reflect with mindful awareness on your experience with RP Circle Restorative Conversation Restorative language shift Others 	 Educational Solutions Newsletter, vol.7, no.4 Content response and reflection. Respond to cohort's responses. Resources to review and choose from: Healthier Schools SF Website Teaching Restorative Practices in the Classroom - 7 Lesson Curriculum Schott Foundation Overview Restorative Practices: Fostering Healthy Relationships & Promoting Positive Discipline in School. Kay Pranis Resources The Circle Keeper's Handbook Circle Forward Two Restorative Practice Reflection Reflect on your use of RP in your personal or work life. It could be as simple using affective statements more. 	
	Module 3: Experin entation & Reflective Practices		
Week 10 3/26 2.5 hours online	 Class Meeting #3 Learning Goals: To experience a variety of ways to teach mindfulness To understand the scope and purpose of the final Resource <u>Page Project</u> To begin the Project To understand options and choose platform for Project To reflect on learning so far in circle. To lead our own circles. Online Learning Goals: To reflect on and refine your way of introducing these practices to others. (Welcome Page) Attend to your Mindfulness Practice 	 Class Meeting Agenda 4pm-7pm Settle in Mindfulness Meditation Introduction to Resource <u>Page Project</u> Technology Set Up Group Mindfulness Practice Read excerpt from <u>Courage to Teach</u> by Parker Palmer Circle: Reflection and sharing on Mindfulness practice and RP work Videos: Oakland RP videos. Practice Leading. Online Assignment Write welcome message for web resource Set up web resource organization. Post link in Online Classroom Listen to as much of talk as you'd like <u>Attend and Befriend: Healing the Fear Body - Tara Brach</u> Continue to Check out <u>RP resources</u> Work on your resource page as much as you can. Read classmates links and give encouragement. 	
Week 11 4/2 2.5 hrs online	 To add content to your Web <u>Page</u> To Reflect on one way you are using RP. 	Go to "Research" Section of <u>RP resources</u> and <u>TrueNatureTeaching Resources</u> and summarize what you discover, citing the most persuasive research.	

		 Add <u>Research & Resources</u> sections to your web resource page. Post your Resource Page link Write reflection on use of RP. Encourage your Classmates with short comments on their work or suggestions
Week 12 4/9 2.5 hrs online	 To develop the Mindfulness Section of your Web Page 	 Visit <u>Mindfulness Resources</u> (Still under construction!) to review and choose which resources you want to add to your web resource page. Check out: "<u>Mindfulness and Poetry for Transformation</u>" Begin with the resources pages on <u>Mindfulness: A Guide for Teachers</u> and <u>Grow Mindful Roots</u> Web page development Post your updated Resource Page (4/12) Encourage your Classmates with short comments or suggestions (4/15)
Week 13 4/16 3 hrs class meeting 2.5 hrs online	 Class Meeting #4 4pm-7pm To reflect on our learning To practice our "sell" To share resources and insights. To develop strong intention. 	 Class Meeting Agenda 4pm-7pm Mindfulness Practice: Circle: Reflection and sharing on Mindfulness practice and RP work Share poems and quotes collected for circle openings. Practice our pitch Cohort work: Sharing learning statements. Cohort work: Implementation support and brainstorm Final Circle. Online Learning Assignments & Action Plans Review your reading responses and meditation reflections to develop a learning statement following online guidelines. (4/22) Post Final Resource Page (4/22) Respond to classmates Learning Statement and Resource Page. 4/30
April 30th Optional Final Class Circle - Optional This 2 hour gathering will be open to educators who have taken this course to share learning, support each other and build community. You will have the opportunity to ask questions of educators who are using what you have just learned.		
Total Online Hours: 33 hrs Class Meeting Hours: 12 hrs		

All coursework must be completed and submitted to the instructor no later than April 30th