

 <p><b>THE CENTER</b> FOR JUSTICE &amp; PEACEBUILDING</p> <p>A PROGRAM OF EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY</p>	<p><b>CIRCLE PROCESSES</b></p> <p><b>PAX 672</b> <b>SPI 2024</b></p> <p>June 3, 2024 – June 7, 2024</p> <p><i>Course meeting location and time:</i> (can leave blank in the draft as that information may not be available for awhile)</p>
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### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Kay Pranis  
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 cell: 651-792-5581

Prefer contact by e-mail. Please note the e-mail above **is not an EMU e-mail.**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Circle Processes will be an in-depth exploration of the philosophy, structure and applications of this process, exploring the potential of circles to help us transcend the isolation, demonization and polarization that is a source of pain and violence in the world.

This course will explore the values and philosophy that provide the foundation of the peacemaking circle process, acknowledging its indigenous origins. It will also analyze the structure of the peacemaking circle process and describe a variety of types of circles. The course will provide examples of the use of the process in schools, social services, faith communities, neighborhoods, the justice system, workplaces and families. Participants will learn to design and conduct peacemaking circles for community building and conflict resolution. Both philosophy and practice will be addressed.

The course will be conducted primarily in circle, using the experience of participants as a major source of knowledge. The course will also include small group work, group discussion and lecture. Special attention will be given to the role of the facilitator and the key skills of circle facilitation.

In light of intense polarization among citizens around numerous topics or concerns, both in the US and around the globe, this course will work on designing processes to create spaces where dramatically different perspectives are shared with respect and thoughtfulness.

### COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Students will experience the peacemaking circle process. Students will learn the foundational values, principles, and key structural elements of peacemaking circles. Students will learn a wide variety of applications of the peacemaking circle process. Students will be able to design and facilitate peacemaking circles in a variety of situations.

### REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

Required Texts:

- Rupert Ross, **Returning to the Teachings: Exploring Aboriginal Justice** (1996 Penguin Canada) (270 pp) ISBN 0-14-305559-3 \$22
- Kay Pranis, Barry Stuart and Mark Wedge, **Peacemaking Circles: From Conflict to Community** (2003 Living Justice Press) (250 pp) ISBN 9780972188606 \$25
- Carolyn Yoder, **The Little Book of Trauma Healing** (2005 Good Books) (80 pp) ISBN 9781561485079 \$7.99
- Kay Pranis, **The Little Book of Circle Processes: A New/Old Approach to Peacemaking** (2003 Good Books) (75 pp) ISBN 9781561484614 \$7.99
- Fania Davis, **The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice** (2019 Good Books) (120 pp) ISBN 9781680993448 \$7.99
- Katherine Evans and Dorothy Vaandering, **The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education** (2016 Good Books) ISBN 9781680991727 \$7.99
- **Course reader** (90 pp)

**Additional Reading Resources:**

- Robin Wall Kimmerer, **Braiding Sweetgrass** (2013 Milkweed Editions) (390 pp) ISBN 9781571313560 \$18
- Nancy Riestenberg, **Circle in the Square – Building Community and Repairing Harm in School** (2012 Living Justice Press) (220 pp) ISBN10: 9780972188673 \$20
- Jennifer Ball, Wayne Caldwell and Kay Pranis, **Doing Democracy with Circles – Engaging Communities in Public Planning** (Living Justice Press) ISBN 9780972188661 \$20
- Carolyn Boyes-Watson and Kay Pranis, **Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community** (2014 Living Justice Press) (456 pp) ISBN 13; 9781937141196 \$70
- Carolyn Boyes-Watson, **Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth**, (2008 Living Justice Press) (280 pp) ISBN 9780972188647 \$20

List any other additional/supplementary resources including:

- <https://livingjusticepress.org/rj-circle-videos>

**REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:**

All participants are expected to show up and participate in each class session. Additionally, before the course begins, all participants should:

- Read: *Peacemaking Circles – From Conflict to Community*, pg 1 – 80
- Watch two videos about Circle on Living Justice Press website: <https://livingjusticepress.org/rj-circle-videos>
- Find or create a visual image of something in the form of a circle that you find interesting. Bring the image or a copy of that image to the class.
- Find an object that represents an important aspect of your life; bring that object or a representation of the object to the first class.

**THOSE TAKING THE COURSE FOR 2 HOURS OF GRADUATE CREDIT**

During the course

Write a journal of reflections about the experience of the course (3 – 4 pages)

Following the course meeting:

- Complete reading of Required Texts
- Write a 1-2 page reflection piece for each of 2 selections of required readings (2-4 pages total).
- Design and implement a talking circle

Upon completion of the course design a talking circle on an issue or topic of interest to you that you can implement. Conduct the talking circle. Write a 3-4 page report describing the purpose, planning steps, preparation and experience of the circle.

- Course Project Paper - 4-6 pages minimum

#### Course Project Paper Options

- choose a topic of interest related to peacemaking circles, write a paper on the topic and its relationship to circles
- research a related peacemaking or dialog process and identify similarities and differences from peacemaking circles.
- analyze an experience in your own life where you think a circle might have been useful (personal, work, school, . . ) and suggest a design for the circle
- sit in on a circle (if there is anything available) and write a reflection paper about what you experience and observe
- other – check with instructor

**Due date: August 12, 2024**

submit by e-mail to: [kaypranis@gmail.com](mailto:kaypranis@gmail.com)

THIS IS NOT AN EMU E-MAIL

*These are brief descriptions of required graded assignments for the course. More details for each assignment can be found on the “Guidance Notes” that will be provided in class.*

#### DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE:

Monday, June 3: 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:30pm – 5:00pm  
 Tuesday, June 4: 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:30pm – 5:00pm  
 Wednesday, June 5: 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:30pm – 5:00pm  
 Thursday, June 6: 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:30pm – 5:00pm  
 Friday, June 7: 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:30pm – 5:00pm

#### SPI ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is expected that individuals registering for an SPI session will attend the entire course (barring unforeseen travel delays or emergencies). Please contact SPI directly at [spi@emu.edu](mailto:spi@emu.edu) before registering if you know you will have to miss any days of a course. SPI certificates are provided to participants only if they miss no more than one class day unless prior arrangements have been made with the SPI team and confirmed with the instructor. For-credit participants are expected to attend all class sessions unless they are given permission from the instructor to miss a session. SPI courses rely on active student participation in a learning community. If a participant misses class repeatedly and this disrupts the learning for others, they will be asked to leave the course and no money will be refunded for remaining course time.

## **GRADING CRITERIA AND OTHER POLICIES:**

SPI provides all students taking the course for graduate credit some supplemental information that will serve as a resource after SPI when students are working on course assignments. This includes information on library resources, EMU's academic integrity policy, and guidelines for writing graduate papers, information regarding the grading scale and course deadlines, and then some suggestions we have for you in order to make your experience of taking SPI courses for graduate credit as successful as possible! These [documents](#) are all available online.