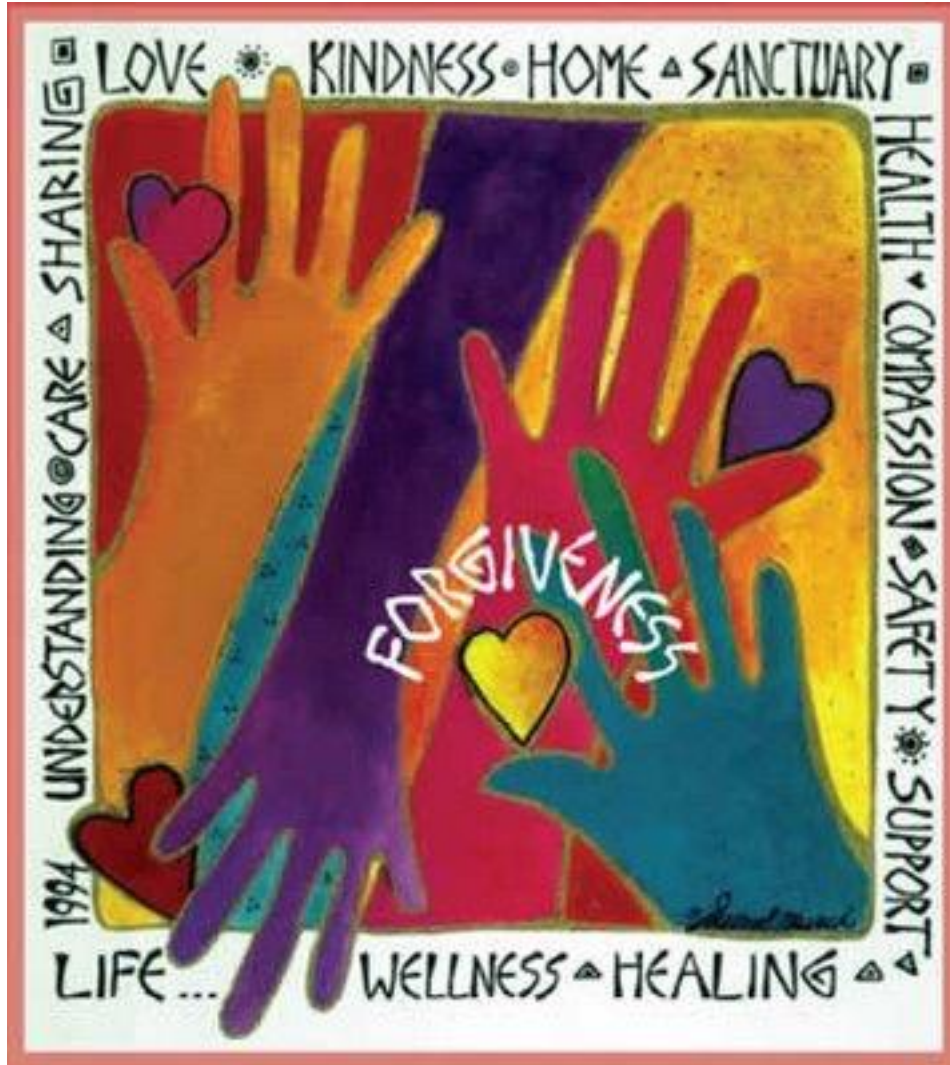


FORGIVENESS & MORAL REPAIR
Fall 2017 Syllabus



*He (she) who is devoid of the power to forgive,
is devoid of the power to love.*

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Without forgiveness, there really is no future.

-- Bishop Desmond Tutu

*For me, forgiveness and compassion
are always linked:
How do we hold people
accountable
for wrongdoing
and yet
at the same time
remain
in touch
with their humanity
enough
to believe
in their capacity
to be
transformed?*

■ *bell hooks*

Course Description: In this semester-long, on-line, three-unit class we will meet people from all over the world, from a variety of religious and cultural traditions, who have practiced forgiveness as a means of healing, peace and liberation. Through readings, films, and spiritual practice exercises we will develop interpersonal and pastoral skills in forgiveness. We will work on strengthening our "forgiveness muscles" and support others in doing so as well. We will also explore moral repair: how we individually and collectively might apologize, repent and/or atone after wrong-doing. This class will be experiential, drawing on personal narratives, neuroscience, psychology, practical theology and the wisdom and practices of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism.

Course Requirements:

- Students are expected to participate in class, on-line, weekly.

- They will need to engage with the texts related to that week's theme, doing at least 1 post and commenting on a classmate's post.
- They will also be asked to do one practice exercise and comment on at least one classmate's practice post each week.
- In order to deepen their understanding and practice of forgiveness and repair, students will be expected to post reflections on 3 of the suggested books or 6 of the suggested films or some combination thereof.

Students may substitute other books or films to meet this requirement, with the instructor's prior approval.

Students, with the instructor's prior approval, can also do a project instead of the book reading/film watching. Examples: work with a therapist or spiritual director on a forgiveness matter; doing a series of paintings; researching a particular topic; giving a sermon; creating a healing ritual, etc.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of Fall semester, students will be able to: (1) demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the power, complexity and limitations of forgiveness; (2) explain how grievance stories are created and how they can be dismantled; (3) identify similarities and differences in the ways various religious traditions approach forgiveness, repentance, repair and atonement; (4) reflect on their personal practice with forgiveness and repentance; and (5) point to the ways they listened and supported others in class in their journeys about forgiveness and moral repair.

Course Policies:

Class Meeting Time: Because students live and work in various time zones, the format for this class is asynchronous. This means there will be no particular day or time the class meets. Instead, students may participate in the class at whatever times work best for them.

Absences: As outlined in the SKSM Student Handbook, students may miss two weeks of class without needing to make up work. However, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Keeping Up with the Work: As explained in the Class FAQ's (on Moodle), students will be expected to complete their work in a timely fashion, usually within 7 – 10 days. If a student falls behind more than two weeks, they are responsible for contacting the instructor and making a plan for catching up. If a student continues to lag far behind, the instructor may ask the student to drop the course.

Grading: Most SKSM students will take this course Pass/Fail. If you wish to take the course for a grade, please register accordingly.

Other Course Details and Policies – such as FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act – will be posted on the class Moodle site.

Course Instructor: The class will be taught by Rev. Christine Fry, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister. Chris has been teaching at Starr King for the Ministry for over thirteen years offering classes on Forgiveness; Spiritual Practices for These Times; Illness, Health & Healing; and Families & Spiritual Practice. She lives in Davis, California with her husband, Isao Fujimoto, a retired UC Davis professor and long-time community activist. Their daughter - Esumi - was born during Chris' second year at Starr King School for the Ministry and is now living in New York City and working as a registered nurse at NYU Medical Center.

Office Hours: Chris will be available to meet with students individually through email, phone, skype and, on occasion, in person. Please email Chris (revcfry@aol.com) ahead of time to schedule a meeting.



Fall 2017 Calendar

Week One:

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Week Two:

GRIEVANCE STORIES

Week Three:

AMISH GRACE

Week Four:

PREPARING TO FORGIVE . . . MAYBE

Week Five:

FAMILY FIGHTS & FEUDS

Week Six:

REPENTANCE & THE FIVE LANGUAGES OF APOLOGY

Week Seven:

RELATIONSHIPS & INFIDELITY

Week Eight:

READING WEEK

Week Nine:

WHEN A CHILD IS HURT

Week Ten:

AZIM'S BARDO & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Week Eleven:

FORGIVENESS & RACE

Week Twelve:

THE SUNFLOWER

Week Thirteen:

RECONCILIATION

Week Fourteen:

AGING & FORGIVENESS AT THE END OF LIFE

Week Fifteen:

CLOSING REFLECTIONS

SUGGESTED BOOKS & FILMS

Please Note: You only need to read 3 of these books or watch 6 of these films or some combination thereof over the course of the semester!

You may also choose alternate books/films or do a project instead with the instructor's prior approval.

Films that are available through Netflix are marked NF-S (for streaming) and NF-D (for DVD). Films available through Amazon Instant are marked API. Films that can be borrowed from the instructor are marked CF.

Books listed can usually be obtained through a library or at prices lower than those listed at Amazon. Some may also be loaned from the instructor.

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Suggested Books:

Michael Henderson, No Enemy to Conquer: Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World (2009), \$14.48. ISBN-10: 1602581401

Marina Cantacuzino & Archbishop Desmond Tutu, The Forgiveness Project: Stories for a Vengeful Age (2015), \$15.18. ISBN-10: 1849055666

Class Film (required): "The Power of Forgiveness" by Martin Doblmeier

GRIEVANCE STORIES

Suggested Books:

Fred Luskin, Forgive for Good (2003), \$10.59. ISBN-10: 006251721X

Jeffrie Murphy, Getting Even: Forgiveness & Its Limits (2004), \$19.50. ISBN-10: 0195178556

Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu, The Book of Forgiving: The Four-Fold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World (2014) \$12.96 ISBN-10: 0062203576

Suggested Films:

"Les Miserables" by Bille August (NF-DVD, API)

"The Spit-Fire Grill" by Lee David Zlotoff (API)

"In a Better World" with Mikael Persbrandt (API)

AMISH GRACE

Suggested Book:

Donald Kraybill, Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy, (2010), \$14.79. ISBN-10: 0470344040

Suggested Film:

"Amish Grace" by Gregg Champion (API)

PREPARING TO FORGIVE . . . MAYBE**Suggested Book:**

Fred Luskin, Forgive for Good (2003), \$10.59. ISBN-10: 006251721X

Suggested Films:

"An Unfinished Life" with Robert Redford and Morgan Freeman (NF-DVD, API)

"Journey Toward Forgiveness," documentary including segments on Oklahoma City Bombing and Hospice (API)

FAMILY FIGHTS & FEUDS**Suggested Books:**

Sue Thompson, The Prodigal Brother: Making Peace with Your Parents, Your Past and the Wayward One in Your Family (2010), \$13.25). ISBN-10: 1449700535

Louise De Salvo, Crazy in the Kitchen: Food, Feuds and Forgiveness in an Italian American Family (2004), \$4.94. ISBN-10: 1582342989

Suggested Films:

"Around the Bend" with Michael Caine (API)

REPENTANCE & THE FIVE LANGUAGES OF APOLOGY

Suggested Books:

Louis Newman, Repentance: The Meaning and Practice of Teshuvah (2014), \$22.84. ISBN-10: 1459669622

Gary Chapman and Jennifer Thomas, The Five Languages of Apology (2006), \$1.97, ISBN-10: 1881273571

Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Recovery – The Sacred Art: The 12 Steps as Spiritual Practice (2009), \$4.81. ISBN-10: 15944732590

Suggested Films:

"The Kite Runner" with Khalid Abdalla (NF-S, API)

"The Widow of St. Pierre" by Patrice Leconte (NF-S, API)

"28 Days" with Sandra Bullock (API)

"Acts of Worship" with Ana Reeder (API)

RELATIONSHIPS & INFIDELITY

Suggested Books:

Janis Abrahms Spring, After the Affair: Healing the Pain & Rebuilding Trust When a Partner Has Been Unfaithful (2012), \$10.43. ISBN-10: 0062122704

Suggested Films:

"Redwoods" with David Lewis (API)

"The Descendants" with George Clooney (NF-DVD, API)

WHEN A CHILD IS HURT

Suggested Books:

Nancy Richards, Heal & Forgive: Forgiveness in the Face of Abuse (2005), \$8.20. ASIN: B00D5R5E8S

Marie Fortune and Joretta Marshall, Forgiveness & Abuse: Jewish and Christian Reflections (2013), \$20.00. ISBN-10: 0307276538

Martin Moran, The Tricky Part: A Boy's Story of Sexual Trespass, A Man's Journey to Forgiveness (2006), \$14.19. ISBN-10: 0307276538

Suggested Films:

"Antwone Fisher" with Denzel Washington(API)

"Priest" by Antonia Bird (NF-S)

"Mooz-lum" directed by Qasim Basir (NF-S, API)

AZIM'S BARDO & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Suggested Books:

Azim Khamisa, From Murder to Forgiveness: A Father's Journey (2012), \$13.82. ISBN-10: 1452542937

Howard Zehr, The Little Book of Restorative Justice (2015) \$5.99 ISBN-10: 1561488232

Suggested Films:

"Restorative Justice" (API)

FORGIVENESS & RACE

Suggested Books:

Patricia Raybon, My First White Friend: Confessions on Race, Love, and Forgiveness (1997), \$13.50. ISBN-10: 0140244360

Ellis Cose, Bone to Pick: Of Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Reparation and Revenge (2005), \$12.34. ISBN-10: 0743470672

Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton, Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption (2009), \$14.25. ISBN-10: 9780312599539

Martin Luther King, Jr. Strength to Love (2010), \$15.47. ISBN-10: 0800697405

Suggested Films:

“Banished” directed by Marco Williams (2008), \$26.95. ASIN: B0017LIG4S (or through CF)

“The Interrupters” (API)

“After Innocence” with Ronald Cotton et. al. (2005), \$24.97. ASIN: B000KJV1E6 (or through CF)

“Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin” (2003), \$15.97 ASIN: B003LR5BBC

“A Force More Powerful,” Parts I & II (API)

THE SUNFLOWER

Suggested Books:

Simon Wiesenthal, The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness (1998), \$2.36. ISBN-10: 0805210601

Solomon Schimmel, Wounds Not Healed by Time: The Power of Repentance and Forgiveness (2004), \$8.12. ISBN-10: 019517612X

Suggested Films:

“I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life & Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal” (API)

“Forgiving Dr. Mengele: The Eva Kors Story” directed by Cheri Pugh (NF-S)

RECONCILIATION

Suggested Books:

Laura Davis, I Thought We'd Never Speak Again: The Road from Estrangement to Reconciliation (2003), \$13.86. ISBN-10: 0060957026

Catherine Claire Larson, As We Forgive: Stories of Reconciliation from Rwanda (2009), \$13.52. ISBN-10: 0310287308

Phil Cousineau, Beyond Forgiveness: Reflections on Atonement (2011), \$17.05. ISBN-10: 0470907738

Suggested Films:

"Reconciliation" with Eric Nenninger and Jack Maxwell (API)

"A Straight Story" by David Lynch (2000), \$9.79. ASIN: B0000424SD (or through CF)

“The Cats of Mirikitani” directed by Linda Hattendorf (2010), \$19.99. ASIN: B002ZMZBAA (or through CF)

“As We Forgive” directed by Laura Waters Hinson (2009), \$14.75. ASIN: B002ZRHHDFV (or through CF)

AGING, FORGIVENESS & THE END OF LIFE

Suggested Books:

Stan Goldberg, Lessons for the Living: Stories of Forgiveness, Gratitude, and Courage at the End of Life (2009), \$18.09. ISBN-10: 1590306765

Ira Byock, The Four Things That Matter Most: A Book About Living (2014), \$17.99. ISBN-10: 1476748535

Suggested Films:

“Quartet” directed by Dustin Hoffman (NF-S, API)

“Beginners” directed by Mike Mills (NF-S, API)

“Wit” directed by Mike Nichols (2004), \$5.63. ASIN: B00005MKKV (or through CF)

“Raw Faith” about UU Rev. Marilyn Sewell before her retirement (2012), \$19.98. ASIN: B007IHH4MU

CLOSING REFLECTIONS (December 14-20, 2015)