

Winter Term 2004 - Honors 135.006
STUDENT ACTIVISM
and
SOCIAL CHANGE
At the University of Michigan

Student pacifists during the Great Depression
Students for a Democratic Society in the 1960s ...
The Black Action Movements Strikes of the 1970s ...
Affirmative action and labor activism in the 1990s ...
Retail unionism this year ...

The University of Michigan has a long history of student "activism," although most have been affiliated with the "left," we'll examine all types. Honors 135 section 006 is a one-credit mini-course open to first year honors students which will explore this history. We'll critically examine various examples and periods of activism, examining the motives and goals of the participants. We'll analyze their activities within a broad historical and political context, thinking about their significance and impact on a local and national scale.

Course work will include discussion, readings, and a short research assignment.

Instructor: Rob Goodspeed (rgoodspe(at)umich(dot)edu)

Course Time: Mondays, 4-5 PM, January 12 through March 15, G449 in Mason Hall

Schedule

January 12

What is "activism"? What do you think about "activists"? Have you ever considered yourself an activist? How does activism relate to political ideology – can there be a "conservative" and "liberal" activists? How are these terms limited?

Reading:

Peskowitz, Zac. "Radical Chic and the state of student activism." *The Michigan Daily*. Published September 4, 2002.

January 19

No Class - Martin Luther King Day Symposium
Frontline Racism 101 Video Viewing?

January 26

The University in the 1930s and 1940s: Why then? The events, and goals and intentions of

participants.

Reading:

Van de Water, Peter E. Alexander Grant Ruthven of Michigan: Biography of a University President Chapter 9, “Student Unrest” (pp. 139-160)

February 2

Women at Michigan

Reading:

Bordin, Ruth. Women at Michigan: The “Dangerous Experiment,” 1870s to the Present
Ch. 6 “Change and Resistance” (pp. 77-92)

February 9

African-Americans at the University of Michigan and the The Black Action Movement(s)

Readings:

Davis, Henry Vance, ed. Sankofa: The University Since BAM: Twenty Years of Progress? Conference Report
Lindsey, Howard. “Reflections of a BAM Participant” (pp. 8-13)
Davis, Henry Vance. “From Coloreds to African-Americans: A History of the Struggle for Educational Equity at the University of Michigan” (pp.30-42)
Photos and BAM demands (pp. 20,28-29, 51, 71)

February 16

The 1960s at Michigan – Part I – What?

Due: 1/2 page research idea

Readings:

Peckham, Howard H. The Making of the University of Michigan
Ch 13.3 “Civil Rights and Vietnam” (pp. 277-282)
Ch. 14.1 “Student Activism: Vietnam, student power, and BAM” (pp. 290-295)
Fleming, Robben. Tempests into Rainbows.
Ch. 12, “Student Problems” and “Open it up or shut it down” (pp. 181-221)

February 23

No Class – Spring Break

March 1

Visit to Labadie Collection

No Readings

March 8

The 1960s at Michigan – Part II – Who, why, how?

Readings:

Ayers, Bill. Fugitive Days: a memoir

Ch. 5, 7-10 (pp.38-40, 49-71)

Goodspeed, Robert. "Reflections on Bill Ayers' Fugitive Days and the Postmodern Campus."

March 15

South African Divestment / The "No Code" Movement - Video / Michigamua sit-in / SOLE Visitor?

Readings: TBA

Resources

Links:

The Labadie Collection - <http://www.lib.umich.edu/spec-coll/labadie/>

The Bentley Historical Library - <http://www.umich.edu/~bhl/>

University Library - <http://www.lib.umich.edu/>

CAAS Library:

5511 Haven Hall

Librarian: V. Robin Grice; email: gricer@umich.edu

Library Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 am to 6 pm

Reference Desk: 764-5518

Other resources:

Lombardo, Michael R. Fighting for peace : the student pacifist movement at the University of Michigan, 1933-1941. Undergraduate History Honors Thesis, University of Michigan, 2000.

Lennon, Thomas. FRONTLINE: Racism 101. Boston, Mass.: WGBH Educational Foundation, 1998. Videorecoding.

Honors 135.006 – Winter 2004
Student Activism and Social Change
Course Pack Supplement - April 2, 2004



Photo taken at March 18 Regents' Meeting



Photo taken at meeting held on Monday, March 29 between members of Student Voices in Action and University Administration – from left to right: Dean of Students Ed Willis, Vice President of

*Academic Affairs Paul Courant, President Mary Sue Coleman, Vice President for Student
Affairs E. Royster Harper.
(Photo ELISE BERGMAN/Daily)*

Photos taken during March 20, 2004 Protest: "The World Still Says NO To War"





Honors 135.006
Coursepack Supplement

CONTENTS

“Student Voices In Action” - 2004

- Demands presented University President Mary Sue Coleman
- University President Mary Sue Coleman, “Letter From the President”

The Code of Student Conduct

- Rob Goodspeed, “Don't let toe 'U' fool you, new Code still has old face, same tricks,” *Michigan Daily*, September 5, 2001.
- Staff Editorial, “The Code's hidden purpose: Coleman does not stand up for students' rights,” *Michigan Daily*, 9 September 2003.

Students Supporting Affirmative Action

- Jackie Bray, Monique Luse, Michelle Lin, “Students v. Court of Public Opinion,” Ch. 13 in *How to Get Stupid White Men Out of Office*
- *Michigan Daily* articles: “New group promotes affirmative action” (9/25/01), “Affirmative action supporters plan events leading up to April 1” (03/07/03), “Busing to D.C. Will cost MSA \$12,000” (3/12/03), “The students react” (6/24/03)

The Campus Right

- Gregory L. Schneider, *Cadres for Conservatism: Young Americans for Freedom and the Rise of the Contemporary Right*, Ch. 6, “Up Against the Wall: YAF and the New Left, 1968-1970,” pp. 110-126

Miscellaneous Excerpts

- Susan Holtzer, *Special to The Daily: The First One Hundred Years of Editorial Freedom at the Michigan Daily*