

**Humboldt State University
Department of Social Work**

**Beyond Left and Right II –
Non-violence, Social Action, & Michael Moore**

SW 494

1 unit (credit/no credit)

Spring, 2005

Friday, April 22 - 6:00pm- 8:50pm

Saturday, April 23 - 9:00am - 11:50pm

Friday, April 29 - 6:00pm- 8:50pm

Saturday, April 30 - 9:00am - 11:50pm

Founders Hall 118

Instructor: Ronnie Swartz

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Office Hours:

Wednesday, 10:00pm-12:00pm

Thursday, 12:30pm-2:00pm

There are lots of ways to engage in social change. Moving from talking about social conditions to doing something about social conditions is not as challenging as some might suggest. Michael Moore offers strategies for humorous, just, and effective change efforts through his non-violent confrontational approach. This class will examine his non-film work with the television series *TV Nation* and the series *The Awful Truth*.

Book

Moore, M. (1996). *Downsize This! Random Threats from an Unarmed American*. New York: Harper Collins.

Blackboard

Except for the book, the readings for class are accessible through Blackboard under "Readings".

There are two "Discussion Boards" available in Blackboard. These are places to post messages, ask questions, raise concerns, make announcements, etc.

To use Blackboard, go to blackboard.humboldt.edu and use your HSU email address (before the "@humboldt.edu" part) as your username and your HSU ID number as your password (unless you've already changed this).

Getting Credit

If you follow the guidelines I've outlined for the activity below and you come to each of the four classes (unless you make arrangements with me *prior to the first class*) you will receive credit for the class.

Activity

Do something.

Here are some ideas:

- Make a film that relates to what we talk about in class.
- Say something at a public meeting that relates to what we talk about in class and write about it.
- Record a conversation with a business owner whose work you respect.
- Have a conversation with a business owner whose work you respect and write something about it.
- Record a conversation with a business owner whose work you are concerned about.
- Have a conversation with a business owner whose work you are concerned about and write something about it.
- Write a song about something that comes up in class and write something about the song.
- Engage in a peaceful demonstration and write something up about it.
- Table and write something about your experience.

Have another idea? Tell me about it.

Your activity should be completed and documented by 12:00pm on Tuesday, May 10.

Class Meeting Times

April 22**Reading:**

- King, Jr. M.L. (1963). Letter From Birmingham Jail.

Topic: Marginalization

April 23**Reading:**

- Zinn, H. (2005). Changing Minds, One at a Time. *The Progressive*, 69(3). 22-24.

Topic: Corporations

April 29**Reading:**

- Rothchild, M. (2002). The Progressive Interview: Russ Feingold. *The Progressive*, 66(5). 29-34.
- Finish up reading *Downsize This*.

Topic: Politics

April 30**Reading:**

- Johnson, A. (2001). What steps can I take to create change? *Privilege, Power, and Difference*. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill.

Topics: Law Enforcement & Militarism