

November 13<sup>th</sup> 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brianne Sandborn and on my behalf I would like to lend my support to Professor Dr. Jason Friedman; I was enrolled in History 480 class during the fall semester 2009 at Michigan State University. I am writing this letter in hopes of expressing that Dr. Friedman enhanced my historical knowledge on the 1970's, through his passion of the subject I gained a tremendous amount of detailed information that I will be able to take on and hopefully bestow upon others.

I am in my senior year at MSU graduating with a secondary education degree; I have a Social Studies major and a history minor. I took Dr. Friedman's class to fulfill a history seminar credit, before attending this class I was unsure of what a seminar was so walking in the first day was a shock. We were in a small room with a table and nine chairs around it, this was unlike any class I have been enrolled in and was actually nervous. The class started with an ice breaker introduced by Dr. Friedman and after the first ten minutes I knew this class was going to be welcoming and a place to express my opinions. I enrolled in this specific course because it was titled "The Me Decade"- The Culture and Politics of 1970s America" I wanted to challenge myself because I had little knowledge of the 1970s. I came into this class with the usual response of the Vietnam War, and the pop culture of the Seventies, Disco anyone? However, looking at the syllabus I knew that I was going to gain a better understanding of this era. Some of the topics that we discussed were women's rights, Richard Nixon and his "dirty tricks", entertainment and spirituality, race, diversity and the New Right. After the first day of class I left prepared for the weeks to come, the syllabus stated exactly what was expected, to read the material, come to class prepared to discuss in depth the topics, and the assignments that I would need to complete. The topics that I found most interesting were the ones that had an influence on the pop culture such as *All in the Family*, the musicians and the music of the Seventies, and the racial and diversity topics. My favorite articles were "Fabulous Politics: Gay, Lesbian and Queer Movements, 1969-1999" by Jeffrey Escoffier and a book by Manning Marable *Race, Reform and Rebellion: The Second Reconstruction in Black America, 1945-1982*. Dr. Friedman gave a lot of control to us for the discussion roles he would add his input to clarify any misconceptions and add thoughtful questions to make us really think about the topic. He would let us ponder our thoughts and then let us share, he would never disagree with our opinions lick some other professors I have had in the past.

I wish my best for Dr. Friedman in his future as an assistant professor of history he would be a wonderful asset to any college or university that is filling a spot in the history department. He has broadened my knowledge on the 1970s and I have faith that he will do the same to future students.

Sincerely,

Brianne Sandborn