

# in brief: male studies course 'not endorsed' by the university of south australia

16 January 2014  
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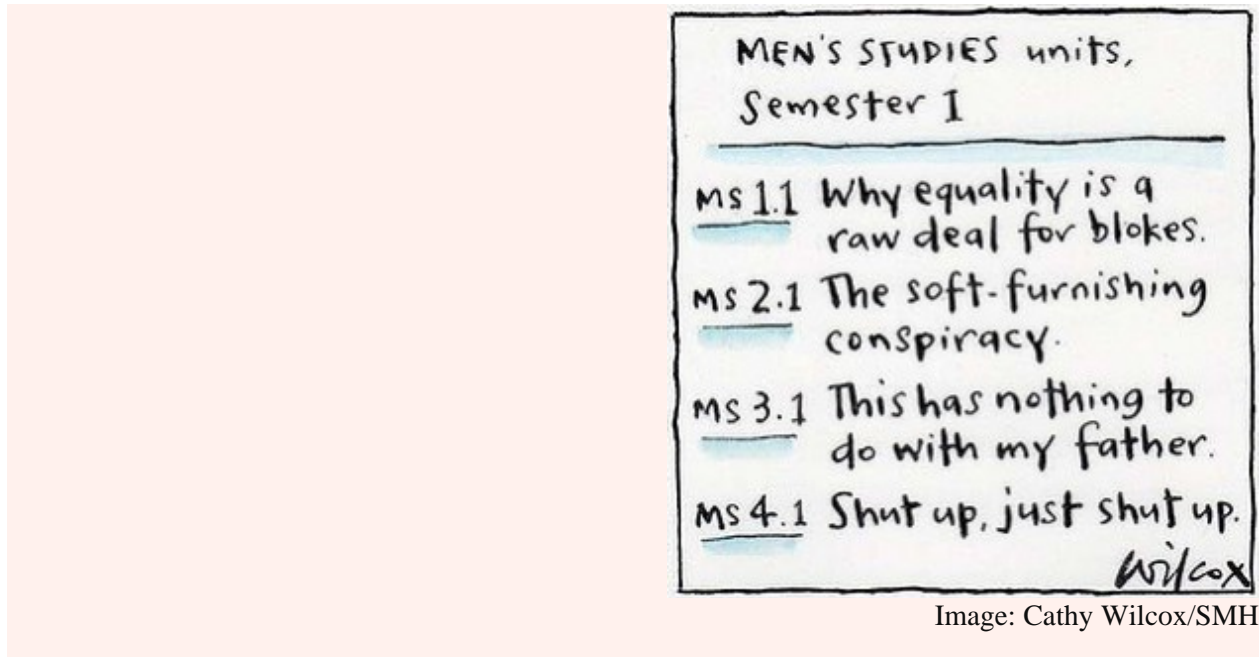


Image: Cathy Wilcox/SMH

Just a few days ago, we were all shocked to **discover** that the University of South Australia was going to be offering an online course on male studies, lead by a group of lecturers who associate themselves with anti-feminist organisations, websites and groups.

It is the first course of its kind in the world, and UniSA was **praised** and **scorned** all over the inter-webs for opening its doors to a course that seemed to be all about retaliating against an apparent feminist 'control of the agenda.'

Professors on the list for teaching the course include Miles Groth, Roy Den Hollander and Gary Misan, all of whom have some connection with anti-feminist activism. However, Dr. Misan stated that none of them 'are extreme or anti-feminist' and furthermore, that 'the aim of the courses are to present a balanced view ... [because] it's very difficult for anybody who has opposing views to get a word in.'

A balanced view, eh? Well, I think we'd all love a bit of that. How about a course that features that same amount of female and male writers, philosophers etc. in its repertoire? When that happens, we can all finally take a big breath of relief. Until then, we have this to deal with – a course that seems to be going backwards in time, quite

literally, as Hollander likens ‘the position of men today to black people in America’s south in the 1950s ... and blames feminists for oppressing men.’

However, just yesterday **news broke** that UniSA ‘did not endorse views of the suggested lecturers’ and that the course had not actually been officially approved. The National Union of Students president Deanna Taylor spoke about her concerns on a course such as this that made it through most of the approval process before being canned, stating ‘it’s not long before proposals like the ones that were rejected actually get approved.’ So thankfully, this course will not go ahead with these lecturers at its helm. However, it did get me thinking – is a male studies course a necessity? Is it perhaps a good idea to teach young people about the role of males in society – through a critical and analytical lens, run by people who do not favour one side of the coin? What do you think?

[Image Credit]