

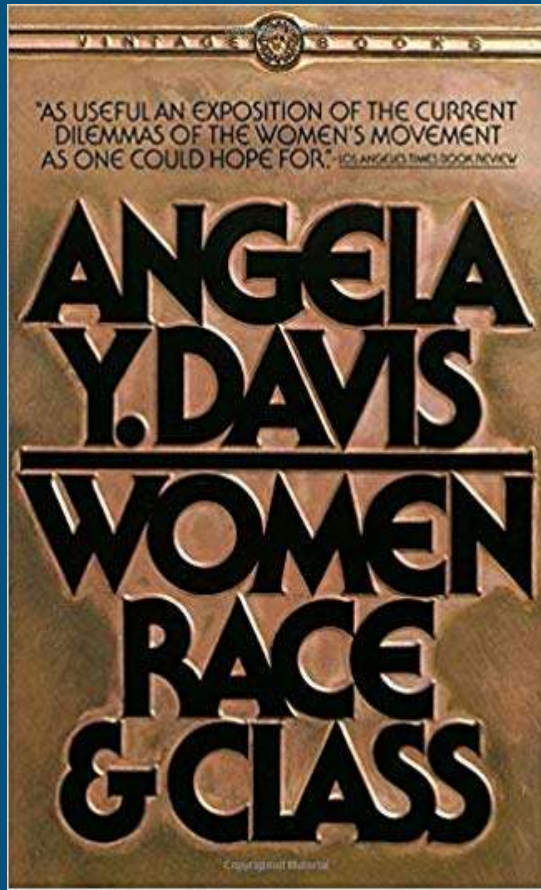
# Reading Circle: Angela Davis' *Women, Race, and Class* (1981)

---

*Engaged in Thought, Poised for Action*  
University Art Museum

**Facilitator: Kyra Gaunt, Ph.D.**  
**Twitter @kyraocity, IG: kyracatures**





## THE PROCESS

1. My orientation to Davis, the context of Chapter 11.
  2. Share our favorite passages.
  3. A haiku / A lesson in shade
  4. What are you learning?  
How is this conversation conditioning your thinking about women, race, and art?
-

## Ch. 11:

# Rape, Racism and the Myth of the Black Rapist

The popularization of racial ideology and the coalescing of White racial solidarity around rape is embedded in the punitive and public violence of lynching.

The myth of the Black rapist and the fragile framing of white womanhood is situated within the events that took place in 1955 involving Rosa Parks, Marian Anderson, and Emmet Till.

---

# Activist reduced to a hairdo

---

"It is both humiliating and humbling to discover that a single generation after the events that constructed me as a public personality, I am remembered as a hairdo."

"Afro Images: Politics, Fashion, and Nostalgia" *Critical Inquiry*. Vol. 21, No. 1 (Autumn, 1994), pp. 37-39, 41-43 and 45.



# Davis lecture at Boston University (Feb 2019)

Recent News:

## **Violence against Women and Its Ongoing Challenge to Racism.**

Her main message was a hopeful: —  
“Through black history we learn the best  
of the history of the United States of  
America, because that history is an  
unbroken struggle for freedom.”

---



**75-year old feminist leader, trans-activist, prison abolitionist leader Angela Davis spoke to some 600 people at BU [last] Saturday night.** Davis (seated) talked with students after the event, among them sophomores Feven Solomon (from left), Kalkidan Tewodros, Grace Mecha, and Zanta Ephrem. Photos by Cydney Scott.



**KAMALA  
HARRIS**  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

## **Claudette Colvin**

**REFUSED TO GIVE UP HER SEAT  
ON A BUS IN SEGREGATED  
MONTGOMERY — NINE MONTHS  
BEFORE ROSA PARKS**

1955 - Rosa Parks planned to protest bussing; she was not tired, and ... she was not the first.



Made her MET Debut in role of Negro fortune teller, Ulrike, at age of 65.  
NOTE: White opera divas at the MET blacked up their make-up until 2005!!





1955 - Emmet Till brutally murdered. 2017 Till's accuser admits it was a lie.



2015: Victims React To Oklahoma Officer Daniel Holtzclaw Sentence Of Raping Eight [Black] Women While On Patrol



- 1994: Susan Smith blamed a black man to hide killing her own boys.
- 2019: Liam Neeson recalled a “racist revenge attack because someone close to him said she had been raped by a black person.”

Ch. 11:  
Rape, Racism and the  
Myth of the Black Rapist

What's your favorite passage?  
Share what it does for you?

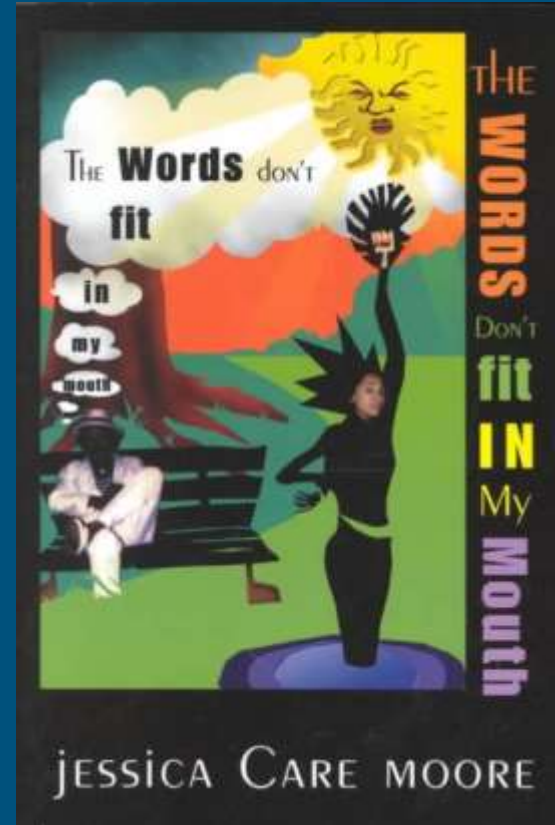
---

# Jessica Care Moore - A Haiku

---

...for a white female friend.

“Why don’t you date white men?,”  
you ask. “Why should I?  
You don’t.”



# The Costs of Occupying White Space

- Memory from white 4 year-old and her mother and the costs of stepping off the curb for a black man in Jim Crow South.
  - The Carters' at the Louvre (surprise music video release)
-

# Queering the victim + Intersectionality

- Ida B Wells' stand against Lynching
  - Pauli Murray and Jane Crow
  - Do we care about transgender aspects of rape?
-

What are YOU learning?

What have YOU noticed while in this conversation with these diverse people and these divergent facts?



What conditions should and could we confront to avoid the consequences of your own implicit + inherited biases?

**The takeaway:**

With whom could you share what you learned?  
Could you share about it online?

feministastic.com  
derailment tactics  
by Sian Ferguson

**"The oppressive kyriarchy is something we are all complicit in, whether we like it or not. We should call it out when we see it in others, but more importantly, we should fight against it when we see it in ourselves. This includes calling out oppression in your own culture and country."**

(the kyriarchy is the social system that keeps all intersecting oppressions in place)



# MY GRATITUDE

## Thank you!

---

*Engaged in Thought, Poised for Action*  
University Art Museum

**Facilitator: Kyra Gaunt, Ph.D.**  
**Twitter @kyraocity, IG: kyracatures**



# Review



THANK YOU!! Would you recommend this discussion?  
Attend the next event + bring your friends!!