

OPPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

INSTRUCTOR	Angela Sun angsun@umich.edu
DESCRIPTION	In this course, we will learn about the experience of oppression, the structures and institutions that perpetuate oppression, and different modes of resisting oppression. We begin with a unit on what oppression is. Next, we discuss some experiences of oppression (including experiences of anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, White poverty, misogyny, and being undocumented), with special attention paid to intersectionality. Finally, we will consider a series of questions about resisting oppression. This course assumes a feminist and critical philosophy of race perspective; rather than focus on questions regarding the legitimacy of gender, race, poverty, and other ways of carving out human differences, we will focus on questions that arise from considering how injustices along these dimensions are embedded in our social structures, institutions, and consciousness.
SCHEDULE	UNIT 1: WHAT IS OPPRESSION? <i>Day 1:</i> The phenomenology of oppression, part 1 Frantz Fanon, chapter 5 ("The Lived Experience of the Black Man") of <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> <i>Day 2:</i> The phenomenology of oppression, part 2 Iris Marion Young, "Throwing Like a Girl" <i>Day 3:</i> White supremacy Charles Mills, "White Supremacy" <i>Day 4:</i> What is oppression? Iris Marion Young, "The Five Faces of Oppression" <i>Day 5:</i> Autonomy, part 1 Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty" Thomas Hurka, "Why Value Autonomy?" <i>Day 6:</i> Autonomy, part 2 Ranjoo Seodu Herr, "Islamist Women's Agency and Relational Autonomy" <i>Day 7:</i> Colonialism Lena Ypi, "What's Wrong With Colonialism" <i>Day 8:</i> Intersectionality, part 1

Kimberle Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color"

Day 9: Intersectionality, part 2

Tommy J. Curry, "Decolonizing the Intersection: Black Male Studies as a Critique of Intersectionality's Indebtedness to Subculture of Violence Theory"

UNIT 2: CASES OF OPPRESSION

Day 10: Slavery's legacy

Watch *Slavery by Another Name*

Day 11: Racial fetishes

Robin Zheng, "Why Yellow Fever Isn't Flattering: A Case Against Racial Fetishes"

Day 12: White poverty

Sarah Smarsh, "Poor Teeth"

Erika Blacksher and Sean A. Valles, "White Privilege, White Poverty: Reckoning with Class and Race in America"

Day 13: Misogyny

Kate Manne, chapter 1 ("Threatening Women") of *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny*

Day 14: Rape and consent

Catharine A. MacKinnon, "Rape Redefined"

Day 15: Silencing speech

Rae Langton, "Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts"

Day 16: Capitalism and oppression

Vanessa Wills, "What Could It Mean to Say that Capitalism Causes Racism and Sexism?"

Day 17: Adaptive preferences

Serene J. Khader, "Must Theorising About Adaptive Preferences Deny Women's Agency?"

UNIT 3: RESISTANCE

Day 18: Resistance and double binds

Sukaina Hirji, "Oppressive Double Binds"

Day 19: An obligation to resist one's own oppression, part 1

Carol Hay, "The Obligation to Resist Oppression"

- Day 20:* An obligation to resist one's own oppression, part 2
Ashwini Vasanthakumar, "Epistemic Privilege and Victims' Duties to Resist their Oppression"
- Day 21:* Resisting oppression: choice between prison abolition, no platforming, and microaggressions
Angela Davis, chapter 1 ("Introduction—Prison Reform or Prison Abolition?") and chapter 3 ("Imprisonment and Reform") of *Are Prisons Obsolete?*
Robert Mark Simpson and Amia Srinivasan, "No platforming"
Regina Rini, "How to Take Offense: Responding to Microaggression"
- Day 22:* Resisting oppression while undocumented
Antje Ellermann, "Undocumented Migrants and Resistance in the Liberal State"
- Day 23:* Our role in addressing structural injustice
Robin Zheng "What is My Role in Changing the System? A New Model of Responsibility for Structural Injustice"
- Day 24:* Moral courage
Sarah Buss, "Some Musings About the Limits of an Ethics That Can Be Applied—A Response to a Question About Courage and Convictions That Confronted the Author When She Woke Up on November 9, 2016"