

42ND ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATION



We are excited to share the 2024 [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration](#) Engagement Toolkit.

This toolkit was created by the Office of Institutional Diversity to encourage university community members to engage more deeply with the Commemoration events. The information included may be used as a resource for individual reflection, group dialogue and academic discourse.

This year, Oregon State University is excited to welcome [Dr. Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor](#) as the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration keynote speaker. Dr. Taylor writes and speaks on Black politics, social movements and racial inequality in the United States.

We invite you and your students to attend the Commemoration Keynote Address on **Wednesday, January 31, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center**. The event is free and open to the public. We ask that all attendees register to attend [here](#).

This toolkit includes a selection of Dr. Taylor's audio, video and written works, along with sample guiding questions and agendas for facilitating a learning experience with the materials.

We hope you find this toolkit helpful. If you have any questions or would like further consultation about using the toolkit, please contact diversity@oregonstate.edu.

About the Commemoration

Now in its 42nd year, the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration is intended to engage community members in learning about and reflecting on the life and legacy of Dr. King and collaboratively envision ways to carry forward his vision for a more just society.

The 2024 commemoration kicks off on January 13 with the [Day of Service](#), and concludes with the commemoration keynote on **Wednesday, January 31**. A full list of events can be found at <https://beav.es/MLK>

About Dr. Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

Dr. Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor is a 2021 MacArthur Foundation Fellow, and recently authored [Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership](#). Her earlier book [From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation](#) won the Lannan Cultural Freedom

Award for an Especially Notable Book in 2016. She is also editor of [How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective](#), which won the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ nonfiction in 2018.

Taylor is a contributing writer at *The New Yorker*. Her writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Review*, *Paris Review*, *Guardian*, *The Nation*, *Jacobin*, and *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*, among others. She is a former Contributing Opinion Writer for *The New York Times*.

For eight years, Taylor was professor of African American Studies at Princeton University. She is currently a professor in the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University.

How to Use This Toolkit

This toolkit can be used in a variety of settings and audiences. Below are a few examples, along with supplemental facilitation resources.

Classroom

Instructional faculty can consider connecting the keynote speaker to their courses. Below are just a few examples on what that can look like:

- **Extra credit:** Consider providing extra credit to students who attend the keynote speaker on **Wednesday, January 31, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center**. Attendance may also be combined with a reading or video.
 - For convince, please review a [sample extra credit email template](#). If you are requiring a signature to confirm attendance, please email events@oregonstate.edu to coordinate.
- **Course syllabus:** If you believe the keynote speaker will supplement your course outcomes, consider assigning a video or reading in your class syllabus and encourage students to attend Dr. Taylor's in-person keynote.
- **Classroom facilitation:** Consider assigning a video or reading and facilitating a classroom learning experience. You can make students aware that Dr. Taylor will also be delivering an in-person keynote.

Professional faculty

Professional faculty, who supervise students or staff, can engage in a facilitated learning experience about issues impacting our community. Below are just a few examples on how that can look like:

- **Facilitate a staff meeting:** Consider assigning a video or reading and facilitating a learning experience at a staff meeting.

- **Share articles and videos:** Consider sharing an article, video, or a combination of both via email and encourage your staff to attend the keynote.

While each accompanying article and video contains guiding questions, it is encouraged to edit or draft your own questions to better meet the intended group and/or course outcomes.

To help plan your facilitated debrief, a sample agenda is linked at the end of the toolkit.

Introduction

- [Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Historian and Writer \(Video\)](#)
 - This four-minute-long video is a great introduction to add to any of the following options. It would provide viewers with a quick snapshot of Dr. Taylor and her research.

Videos and Podcasts

- [From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation \(2016\) TEDxBaltimore](#)
 - Themes
 - Economic inequality, Black political organizing, Identity politics
 - Discussion Questions
 - Dr. Taylor highlights economic inequality as a fundamental issue affecting the African American community. What is the relationship between economic disparities and racial inequality, and how do they intersect? What role does systemic racism play in perpetuating economic disparities?
 - Dr. Taylor describes protests and uprisings as vehicles for change and raising awareness. How effective are protests and social movements in addressing racial injustice? What are some historical examples of protests that led to policy changes?
 - Dr. Taylor discusses the increase in the number of Black elected officials relative to and questions whether this has correlated with meaningful policy and cultural change. How important is political representation for addressing racial inequalities? What is the role of Black politicians in advocating for change, and what challenges do they face in making a difference?
- [Chris Hayes Podcast With Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor \(2020\) Why Is This Happening?, MSNBC](#)
 - Themes:
 - Housing segregation, Social and racial construction of housing value, Racial wealth gap
 - Discussion Questions

- How does Dr. Taylor's research challenge or diverge from dominant narratives of segregation and racialized housing?
- In Dr. Taylor's analysis, what are the specific criteria or indicators of 'working' within the context of American capitalism, and how does the current system measure up to these criteria?
- What policy changes and community initiatives are necessary to rectify the damage caused by these practices and promote housing justice and equity?

Short Articles and Opinion Pieces

- [How Black Feminists Defined Abortion Rights \(2022\) The New Yorker](#)
 - Themes
 - Reproductive justice, Intersectionality, Feminism
 - Discussion Questions
 - Dr. Taylor highlights the differences in the experiences and needs of women based on their race, class, and economic status. How have these factors shaped the abortion rights movement and its goals, and what are the implications for reproductive justice?
 - Dr. Taylor mentions that the mainstream women's movement often overlooked the concerns of poor and working-class women of color. Why was this the case, and how did Black feminists respond to address these gaps in the movement?
 - Reproductive justice is portrayed as encompassing not only the right to choose abortion but also the broader social and economic factors that impact a woman's ability to raise children. How do these broader issues tie into the struggle for reproductive justice, and what are some of the challenges in achieving it?
- [The End of Black Politics \(2020\) New York Times](#)
 - Themes
 - Intergenerational perspectives, History of Black organizing, Political evolution
 - Discussion Questions
 - Dr. Taylor suggests that there is a generational and class conflict within the African-American community when it comes to political representation. How do generational differences manifest in political preferences, and how might this impact the future of Black politics in America?
 - Dr. Taylor highlights the rise of new, young Black leaders connected to the Movement for Black Lives. What role have grassroots movements and activists played in shaping the current discourse around issues of racial injustice and inequality?
 - Dr. Taylor references past demands for a "Black Bill of Rights" that included free medical care, a guaranteed income, and the end of the

Vietnam War. How have these demands evolved, and what new demands have emerged within contemporary Black politics?

- [Contours, Continuities, and Evolutions in Africana Radical Thought \(2020\) The Black Scholar](#)
 - Themes
 - Housing insecurity, Universal housing, Racist housing policy
 - Discussion Questions
 - Dr. Taylor discusses the historical ties between housing policies and racial discrimination in the United States. What are some key examples of these policies, and how have they contributed to racial segregation and inequality?
 - The interview highlights the importance of disconnecting housing from one's well-being, particularly in retirement and education. How might this change in perspective influence public policy, and what potential challenges could arise from this shift?
 - Dr. Taylor suggests that the current housing discussions primarily revolve around affordable housing and private-sector solutions. How would a shift from affordability to universal housing change the way we address housing issues in our society, and what are the potential benefits of such a shift?

Book Chapters

- [Race for profit: How banks and the real estate industry undermined Black homeownership \(2019\), Unfair Housing](#)
 - Themes
 - Racist housing policy, Structural inequality
 - Discussion Questions
 - Dr. Taylor mentions the concept of "redlining" and how it limited African Americans' access to housing in certain neighborhoods. How did redlining work, and what are the lasting effects of this discriminatory practice? Additionally, where do you see the effects of redlining in your lived experience?
 - The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) played a significant role in promoting homeownership in the United States, but it excluded African Americans from its programs. How did these racially biased policies affect African Americans' ability to own homes and build wealth, and what long-term impacts are evident today?
 - What impact did the real estate industry, banking sector, and discriminatory practices have on the perpetuation of racial segregation in housing? How did they profit from this segregation?
- [The Long Year \(2022\), Defund the Police and Refund the Communities](#)
 - Themes

- COVID-19 pandemic, Trumpism, Police brutality, Dismantling systems of oppression
- Discussion Questions
 - In what ways can reimagining public safety and reallocating resources towards community well-being help us navigate and recover from the pandemic's impact on vulnerable communities?
 - How can we create a sustainable and equitable model of community safety and well-being by reallocating resources from law enforcement to social services, education, and affordable housing, as proposed by advocates for defunding the police?
 - What are the potential obstacles to the transformation of our current systems, and how can we address them in a way that empowers marginalized communities?

Sample Agenda

This sample agenda of a facilitated learning experience was created for your reference. This sample agenda can serve as a starting point for your needs, as facilitation techniques and approaches may vary depending on your unique facilitation style and the learning environment. If you would like to consult about developing a facilitation guide for your class or meeting, please reach out to diversity@oregonstate.edu for a consultation