



The Native American and Indigenous Alliance at GMU's Literature and Media Recommendations!

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Literature

Fiction

- *Waterlily* by Ella Cara Deloria, Yankton Dakota. A fictional novel written by an Indigenous anthropologist, based on her time spent with Dakota women. *Waterlily* follows Blue Bird and her daughter *Waterlily* as they navigate Dakota life as expansion from the United States slowly encroaches on their way of life.
- *The Marrow Thieves and Hunting by Stars* by Cherie Dimaline, Georgian Bay Métis. A young adult duology set in the not-so distant, post-apocalyptic North American continent. Climate change has ravaged the world and led to a strange phenomenon - everyone but Indigenous peoples have lost the ability to dream. Unfortunately, this leads to Indigenous peoples facing genocide once again - but they have the power to fight back.
- *Empire of Wild* by Cherie Dimaline, Georgian Bay Métis. A horror novel featuring a modern retelling of the Métis Rogarou - a werewolf like creature who haunts Métis communities. The novel's protagonist, Joan, discovers her missing husband, Victor, to be preaching to local Métis people - but he claims to not be Victor, but Reverend Wolff, who is there to bring his people to Jesus - or so he claims.
- *The Grass Dancer* by Susan Power, Standing Rock Dakota. A young adult novel infused with elements of magical realism and fantasy that takes place in the 1980s, focusing on the interconnectivity and hauntings of the past for two families on a North Dakota Reservation.
- *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. A young adult novel following Daunis Fontaine, an unenrolled Ojibwe teen who has to help in a criminal investigation following after witnessing a murder. However, as the investigation grows closer to home, Daunis must decide how far she's willing to go to protect her community, even if it means tearing apart the only world she has ever known.
- *The Only Good Indians* by Stephan Graham Jones, Blackfoot. This horror novel follows four Blackfeet men as they struggle to survive following an event from their teen years that catches up to them. Not only does this entity catch up to them, so does the culture they abandoned.

Non-fiction

- American Holocaust: The Conquest of the New World by David E. Stannard (non-native). Published in 1992, historian David E. Stannard argues that the genocide that occurred in the Americas was the largest act of genocide in the world. He starts with a portrait of life in the Americas pre-contact before moving into the horrors enacted upon the diverse groups of Native peoples.
- Talking Back to Civilization: Indian Voices from the Progressive Era, edited by Frederick E. Hoxie. This collection uses primary sources to highlight the voices of Native Americans during the Progressive Era as they struggled to maintain their lives and culture without being completely assimilated and exterminated by the United States.
- As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock by Dina Gilio-Whitaker, Colville Confederated Tribes. This book explores the origins of environmental injustice that has been occurring in North America since colonization began. Written through an “Indigenous environmental justice” lens, Gilio-Whitaker also discusses the strife between modern environmental activism and Indigenous activists.
- God is Red: A Native View of Religion by Vine Deloria Jr., Standing Rock Sioux. In this book, various traditional Native American religious views are discussed, especially the relationship with Western Christianity. Deloria argues that environmental upheaval comes from human-centric Christianity and subsequent economic policies.
- The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present by David Treuer, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. A sweeping history and counter-narrative of what is pushed about Native American life, Treuer explores the continuous resilience of Native Americans across North America in a personal, intimate way.
- Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Using her knowledge and experience as an Indigenous scientist, mother, and woman, Kimmerer explores how other living, non-human and human beings offer lessons and gifts to the world. She blends her two worlds together - Indigenous woman and botany/environmental scientist - to explain the ways of living that many are unfamiliar with.

Poetry

- Whereas by Layli Long Soldier, Oglala Lakota. A collection of poems and narratives, Long Soldier examines the histories, landscapes, and life as is in the 21st century as an Oglala Lakota woman and United States Citizen.
- An American Sunrise by Joy Harjo, Mvskoke citizen of Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground). The seventh collection of poetry by the United State’s 23rd Poet Laureate, this collection focuses on Harjo’s return to her people’s traditional lands, pre-removal.

- Living Nations, Living Words: An Anthology of First Peoples Poetry, collected by Joy Harjo, Mvskoke citizen of Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground). An anthology that focuses on the themes of place and displacement, as well as resistance and resilience.
- Blue Horses Rush In, Luci Tapahonso. A collection of poems and stories that guide a Navajo woman's life in the late twentieth century.
- When My Brother Was an Aztec by Natalie Diaz, Akimel O'odham (Pima) of the Gila River Indian Community. Natalie Diaz's debut collection of poetry, family dynamics and individual passions are contested with the myths and realities of tribal life and a deeply rooted cultural history.
- Eyes Bottle Dark with a Mouthful of Flowers by Jake Skeets, Black Streak Wood, born for Waters Edge, Diné Navajo. The debut collection of poetry from Jake Skeets, this collection explores queer life in New Mexico - the brutality and fierceness but the beauty and lushness of the people and landscape.
- Skunny Wundy: Seneca Indian Tales (The Iroquois and Their Neighbors) by Arthur Parker, Seneca. Seneca legends and fables passed down to anthropologist Arthur Parker.

Children's Fiction

- Healer of the Water Monster by Brian Young, Navajo. A young Navajo boy, Nathan spends a summer with his grandma and Uncle Jet. Out in the desert he meets a Navajo Holy Being, a Water Monster who needs Nathan's help, and to do so he must connect into his Navajo traditions.
- How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Novel Trilogy by Tim Tingle, Choctaw. A young Choctaw boy, Isaac, tells the story of how he became a ghost while his family and fellow tribal members were forced to walk on the Choctaw Trail of Tears. Despite his ghostly form, Isaac is able to help his family and tribe despite his ghostly form.
- I Lost My Talk by Rita Joe, (words) and Pauline Young (art), both Mi'Kmaq. An illustrated version of Rita Joe's poem *I Lost My Talk*, which discusses the difficult experiences and trauma experienced by Indigenous children across Canada and the United States.
- We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstorm (words), Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe and Métis and Michaela Goade (art), Tlingit Raven moiety and Kiks.ádi Clan. Inspired by the Standing Rock Protests in 2016, this book helps young readers learn why water is sacred and must be protected.

Podcasts

- All My Relations by Matika Wilbur, Swinomish and Tulalip, and Adrienne Keene, Cherokee. Later seasons feature Desi Small-Rodriguez, Northern Cheyenne and Chicana as co-host. <https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com/what-we-do> This podcast is run by two Native American women who explore important topics and struggles of Native Americans in today's society.

- The Red Nation Podcast hosted by Nick Estes, Lower Brule Sioux <https://therednation.org/> The Red Nation Podcast features discussions on Indigenous history, politics, and culture from a left perspective.
- This Land Podcast hosted by Rebecca Nagle, Cherokee. <https://crooked.com/podcast-series/this-land/> A documentary podcast that is an excellent introduction to Indian Law, sovereignty, and civil rights, hosted by two-spirit Cherokee activist Rebecca Nagle, sibling of Mary Kathryn Nagle, playwright and lawyer.
- The Cuts hosted by Sterlin Harjo, Seminole. <http://www.thecutspodcast.com/> From the director and filmmaker best known for his comedy series *Reservations Dogs*, Harjo interviews fellow artists, directors, friends, and families on their lives and work.

Visual Media

Films

- Indian Horse - Drama adaptation based on the 2012 novel of the same name by Richard Wagamese, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations Ojibwe, follows the life of a residential school survivor, Saul Indian Horse, through the stages of his young life and into adulthood (2017, available on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Apple TV)
- The Grizzlies - Sports drama based on the real life stories of Inuit youth suicide in the town of Kugluktuk, Nunavut. (2018, available on Netflix)
- Prey - A prequel to the rest of the films in the Predator franchise, Naru, a Comanche warrior must fight to protect her tribe from the Predator, a humanoid alien who hunts humans for sport, as well as French fur traders, who are destroying the buffalo her people rely on. (2022, available on Hulu and in Comanche dub)
- Night Raiders - A sci-fi dystopian film in which in a post-war future, a Cree mother joins an underground resistance against the military in order to save her young daughter (2021, available on Hulu)
- Gather - A Native made documentary that explores food sovereignty and follows various individuals encouraging a return to Indigenous ways of gathering food within their respective communities.
- Blood Quantum - A Native horror that plays with the concept of colonial concept of blood quantum when zombies overwhelm the earth. Written, directed, and edited by Jeff Barnaby, Mi'kmaq. (2019, available on Amazon Prime, Roku TV)

TV Shows

- Reservation Dogs - Written by Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Muscogee) and Taika Waititi (Polynesian). "Rez Dogs" is a comedy show that follows the story of four Indigenous teenagers in Oklahoma who steal, rob, and save in order to escape to California. This show highlights the struggle of loss in the Indigenous community and how tying up loose ends promotes healing within that community. Available on Hulu and FX.
- Life Below Zero: First Alaskans - National Geographic documentary series following the lives of Alaskan Native peoples in the Alaskan bush.

- Rutherford Falls - Written by Ed Helms, Michael Shur, and Sierra Teller Ornelas (Navajo) Rutherford Falls is a sitcom about two childhood friends, Rachel and Nathan, and a test on their relationship following a crisis that hits their town. Rachel, of the fictional Minishonka Nation, must either choose loyalty for her people, or for Nathan, whose ancestors founded the town and pushed Rachel's people out of the area following a series of attacks. Available on Peacock.

Theater and Musicals

- Fairly Traceable Written by Mary Kathryn Nagle, Cherokee. Set in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, two young Native American law school students grapple with career ambitions, rights of native communities, and environmental welfare.
- The Thanksgiving Play, written by Larissa FastHorse, Sicangu Lakota. A one-act, satirical play about four white people trying to put on a politically correct and respectful play about the First THanksgiving to be put on in schools during Native American Heritage Month.

Music/Musicians

- Fawn Wood (Cree/Salish)
- Frank Waln (Lakota)
- Buffy Sainte-Marie (Cree)
- The Halluci Nation (Mohawk/Cayuga)
- Robbie Robertson (Mohawk) and the Red Road Ensemble
- Jeremy Dutcher (Wolastoqiyik Opera Singer)
- Snotty Nose Rez Kids (Haisla Hip-hop duo)
- Blackbraid I (Indigenized Solo Black Metal Artist)
- Doc and Spencer Battiest (Seminole)
- Genesis - Otyken (Siberian Indigenous group)
- The Indigiverse (Indigenous music channel on Sirius XM)