Book Club
Hosted by Thuy Luu
We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically, the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.

“It is important to note that this kind of acknowledgement is not a new practice developed by colonial institutions. Land acknowledgement is a traditional custom dating back centuries for many Native communities and nations. For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgement is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgement is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth.” - DuwamishTribe.org

How-to Land Acknowledgement / Pay Real Rent: https://www.realrentduwamish.org/land-acknowledgement.html
Why a book club?

The mission of this book club is to create a space for youth to explore and engage with BIPOC authors and their literary works. Through reading contemporary texts, collaborative learning, and accountability, we may better understand some social justice issues affecting Indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities.

⭐ For students in AIS 377, this is an opportunity to continue the relationships we have entered with Indigenous literatures and Indigenous authors, attempt to answer any lingering questions, and share new ideas we may have with each other.
What’s on the syllabus?
Framing Questions and Goals

From AIS 377 Fall 2019 Syllabus: “Guided by the organizing questions of Daniel Heath Justice’s 2018 critical work Why Indigenous Literatures Matter (“How Do We Learn to Be Human? -- How Do We Behave as Good Relatives? -- How Do We Become Good Ancestors? -- How Do We Learn to Live Together?”), we will be reading, discussing, and writing about 21st century Turtle Island literatures.”

But also, how do we practice allyship with and for marginalized peoples?
Books & Papers We’ve Read in AIS 377!

2. “Decolonization is not metaphor” by Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang
3. “Responsible and Ethical Criticisms of Indigenous Literatures” by Nigaanwewidam James Sinclair
4. *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline
“In considering the connections between literature and lived experience, this book contemplates four key questions at the heart of Indigenous kinship traditions: How do we learn to be human? How do we become good relatives? How do we become good ancestors? How do we learn to live together? Blending personal narrative and broader historical and cultural analysis with close readings of key creative and critical texts, Justice argues that Indigenous writers engage with these questions in part to challenge settler-colonial policies and practices that have targeted Indigenous connections to land, history, family, and self...”
“Decolonization is not a metaphor” by Tuck and Yang

“Our goal in this article is to remind readers what is unsettling about decolonization. -- The metaphorization of decolonization makes possible a set of evasions, or “settler moves to innocence”, that problematically attempt to reconcile settler guilt and complicity, and rescue settler futurity. In this article, we analyze multiple settler moves towards innocence in order to forward “an ethic of incommensurability” that recognizes what is distinct and what is sovereign for project(s) of decolonization in relation to human and civil rights based social justice projects.”

“Until stolen land is returned, critical consciousness does not translate into action that disrupts settler colonialism.”
“Responsible and Ethical Criticisms of Indigenous Literatures”  
by Nigaanwewidam James Sinclair

Responsible and ethical criticisms of Indigenous literatures:

- Recognize the full humanity of Indigenous peoples
- Situate stories in specific times, places, and contexts
- Respectfully consider Indigenous-centered literary approaches as fruitful possibilities
- Legitimate a long-standing and wide-ranging Indigenous intellectualism and recognize this intellectual history
- Are responsible to an audience that includes real life, modern Indigenous peoples in it
- Do not assume that Native cultural expressions are “ending”, nor do they adopt a “deficit” model of change, especially if reality says otherwise
- Dream of (and point to) important new possibilities for literary criticisms of Indigenous writing, as well as leave space for the reader to dream of (and point to) possibilities too
- Promote dialogic exchanges that include all interested parties, Indigenous or otherwise
- Provoke, evoke, and invoke change, growth, and beauty that are understandable by many, even if devised by law
The Marrow Thieves
by Cherie Dimaline

“In a futuristic world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America’s Indigenous people, and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world. But getting the marrow, and dreams, means death for the unwilling donors. Driven to flight, a fifteen-year-old and his companions struggle for survival, attempt to reunite with loved ones and take refuge from the ‘recruiters’ who seek them out to bring them to the marrow-stealing ‘factories.’”
More Literature We Can Explore Together :)

Ambitious, but flexible list.
Suggestions

- *Empire of Wild* by Cherie Dimaline
- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Eat the Sky, Drink the Ocean* edited by Kirsty Murray, Payal Dhar and Anita Roy
Empire of Wild
by Cherie Dimaline

“-a propulsive, stunning and sensuous novel inspired by the traditional Métis story of the Rogarou - a werewolf-like creature that haunts the roads and woods of Métis communities. A messed-up, grown-up, Little Red Riding Hood.”

Follows main character Joan as she is reunited with her missing husband, Victor who has become a preacher by the name of Reverend Wolff. He believes his mission is to spread the message of Jesus Christ to the local Métis people.
"As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings are we capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learning to give our own gifts in return."
Between the World and Me
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

“What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all—regardless of race—honestly reckon with our country’s fraught racial history and free ourselves from its burden?

[This book] is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer those questions, presented in the form of a letter to his adolescent son.”
- Random House Books
Eat the Sky, Drink the Ocean

“[This book] is a cross-cultural anthology of seventeen short speculative fictions with a focus on the experience of girls and women. The text is the result of collaboration between women authors and artists from Australia and India. Six are graphic stories, rendered in black-and-white imagery with a taut text.”
- Allen & Unwin Book Publishers

Collab between 20 writers and artists: Isobelle Carmody, Penni Russon, Justine Larbalestier, Margo Lanagan, Lily Mae Martin, Kuzhali Manickavel, Prabha Mallya, Annie Zaidi, Kate Constable, Vandana Singh, Mandy Ord, Priya Kuriyan, Manjula Padmanabhan, Samhita Arni, Alyssa Brugman, Nicki Greenberg and Amruta Patil
Check out this flyer!

(Unofficial) Meeting Times
2x over winter break
Afterwards, every other week
(2x a month)
FLEXIBLE~!
Extra Resources!

✧ Google drive of articles: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aSON0THjtm2z7gl58Ql5LUs3fwmzRo5x/view?usp=sharing

✧ Read book summaries, reviews, and make personalized reading lists: www.goodreads.com

✧ Buy cheap discounted books: www.bookoutlet.com
  ◇ Black Friday Deal 30% off
  ◇ Student Discount 10%
  ◇ My Referral Link for $10 off $25+ order: https://bookoutlet.com/Loyalty/Referral?raf=PTVTs8jU&c=url

✧ Fun and free themes for powerpoints: www.slidescarnival.com

✧ Elevate ur flyer making skillz 4 free: https://www.canva.com
Thank you!

Any questions?
Interested in joining?
Email: tnluu@uw.edu to get added to the FB group
Sign up for text reminders: text “@cardireads” to 81010
Follow me on the socials!
@iamcardithuy