

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- [www.unine.ch/lettres](http://www.unine.ch/lettres)

#### Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature: Indigenous Literatures (2AN1896)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante

Dr. Patrizia Zanella

#### Contenu

The aim of this seminar is to introduce students to one of the most striking and exciting developments in contemporary Indigenous literatures: the presence of Indigenous languages. The corpus of primary texts is a mixture of poetry, prose, and multimedia by contemporary Indigenous writers and artists, predominantly from Turtle Island (North America). Together, we will analyze how these texts contribute to Indigenous language reclamation, challenge linguistic hierarchies, celebrate Indigenous multilingualism, and refuse multicultural monolingualism. Key concepts and considerations are linguistic sovereignty, linguistic violence, translation and refusals to translate, stylistic choices, and formal innovation. At the end of this seminar, students will be able to articulate how Indigenous writers uncover and subvert settler colonial language hierarchization and which political, cultural, pedagogical, and aesthetic interventions the use of Indigenous languages serves.

#### Forme de l'évaluation

An eight- to ten-page (double spaced, excluding the list of works cited), argumentative essay (100%) that close reads and connects at least two texts studied in the seminar, that engages with at least four secondary sources by Indigenous authors, and that includes a positioning and place-based reading statement.

For ethical reasons and to avoid replicating extractive practices, we will not use AI in this seminar. Essays must be students' original work.

The deadline to submit essays in electronic and printed form is January 31, 2026.

In the event of a sanitary crisis, the modalities for assessment remain the same while teaching will switch to WebEx.

#### Modalités de rattrapage

The deadline for new or revised essays (upon agreement) is April 2026.

In the event of a sanitary crisis, the modalities for the "rattrapage" remain the same.

#### Documentation

A course reader and selected texts will be available for purchase.

#### Pré-requis

None prior to enrolment. Regular attendance, reading texts prior to class, and active participation are prerequisites to be eligible to submit a final paper.

#### Forme de l'enseignement

In-person, synchronous seminar that takes place once a week. Occasionally, guest lectures may take place on Zoom or as pre-recorded lectures for the purpose of inviting Indigenous scholars.

#### Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Analyse Indigenous literary texts in ethical, Nation-specific, and non-extractive ways
- Compare and contrast strategies of translation and refusals to translate
- Apply key concepts in Indigenous Literary Studies
- Develop a sustained argument in writing
- Question language hierarchization as an active process

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##### **Compétences transférables**

- Develop critical thinking and close reading
- Select relevant evidence to support your arguments
- Formulate questions
- Structure your arguments in a convincing manner
- Work collaboratively
- Balance attention to both form and content
- Provide appropriate contextualization
- Communicate your point of view supported by evidence