**3rd year BA seminar 2025/2026**

**American Literature and Culture**

**dr Laura Suchostawska**

**Topic: Contemporary Native American fiction and non-fiction**

Description:

The seminar will be devoted to the exploration of contemporary Native American fiction and non-fiction. The students can investigate topics and texts of their own choice, depending on their interests and preferences (novels, short stories, autobiographies, memoirs, nature writing) written by Native American authors from the 20th and 21st century.

Their analysis can focus on environmental issues from an ecocritical perspective, for example, contemporary approaches to ecology based on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and inspired by Native American cultures, worldviews, and practices; exploitation and destruction of ecosystems inhabited by Native Americans, environmental justice, indigenous environmental activism; the natural world in indigenous cultures, cultural significance of animals and protection of endangered species.

Other topics that can be investigated by the students in their research include: family life, childhood and adolescence, personal development, exploring one’s identity, interactions between one’s native culture and the mainstream culture; dealing with violence, trauma, mental issues, addictions, treating and healing physical and mental illnesses; spirituality, interactions between indigenous belief systems and Christianity, or any other relevant issues of interest to the student.