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Featured Bookshelf: 2020 Native American Heritage Month

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Native American Heritage Month Featured Bookshelf



This November take the time to introduce yourself to breadth and depth of indigenous cultures that have existed on the American continents for thousands of years.

November in the United States is Native American Heritage Month, also referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. It celebrates the rich history and diversity of America's indigenous peoples and educates the public about historical and current challenges they face. Native American Heritage Month was first declared by presidential proclamation in 1990 which urged the United States to learn more about their first nations.

Keep reading below to see the full list, descriptions, and catalog links for the featured Native American Heritage titles suggested by UCF Library employees. These books plus many more are also on display in the 4th floor Reading Room of the John C. Hitt Library.

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[#NotYourPrincess: voices of Native American women](#) edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale

Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that combine to express the experience of being a Native woman. Stories of abuse, humiliation, and stereotyping are countered by the voices of passionate women making themselves heard and demanding change. Sometimes angry, often reflective, but always strong, the women in this book will give teen readers insight into the lives of women who, for so long, have been virtually invisible.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Student Learning & Engagement

[1491: new revelations of the Americas before Columbus](#) by Charles Mann

Contrary to what so many Americans learn in school, the pre-Columbian Indians were not sparsely settled in a pristine wilderness; rather, there were huge numbers of Indians who actively molded and influenced the land around them. The astonishing Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan had running water and immaculately clean streets, and was larger than any contemporary European city. Mexican cultures created corn in a specialized breeding process that it has been called man's first feat of genetic engineering. Indeed, Indians were not living lightly on the land but were landscaping and manipulating their world in ways that we are only now beginning to understand.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings: poems](#) by Joy Harjo

In these poems, the joys and struggles of the everyday are played against the grinding politics of being human. Beginning in a hotel room in the dark of a distant city, we travel through history and follow the memory of the Trail of Tears from the bend in the Tallapoosa River to a place near the Arkansas River. Stomp dance songs, blues, and

jazz ballads echo throughout. Lost ancestors are recalled. Resilient songs are born, even as they grieve the loss of their country.

Suggested by Emily Horne, Rosen Library

Indian Work: language and livelihood in Native American history by Daniel H. Usner, Jr.

Representations of Indian economic life have played an integral role in discourses about poverty, social policy, and cultural difference but have received surprisingly little attention. Daniel Usner dismantles ideological characterizations of Indian livelihood to reveal the intricacy of economic adaptations in American Indian history.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Student Learning & Engagement

Ledfeather by Stephen Graham Jones

Jones's beautifully complex novel is a story of life, death, love, and the ties that bind us not only to what has been, but what will be: the power of one moment, the weight of one decision, the inevitability of one outcome, and the price of one life.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

Ojibwa Warrior: Dennis Banks and the rise of the American Indian Movement by Dennis Banks with Richard Erdoes

Dennis Banks, an American Indian of the Ojibwa Tribe and a founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM), is one of the most influential Indian leaders of our time. In this work, written with acclaimed writer and photographer Richard Erdoes, Banks tells his own story for the first time. The authors present an insider's understanding of AIM protest events—the Trail of Broken Treaties march to Washington, D.C.; the resulting takeover of the BIA building; the riot at Custer, South Dakota; and the 1973 standoff at Wounded Knee. Enhancing the narrative are dramatic photographs, most taken by Richard Erdoes, depicting key people and events.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Student Learning & Engagement

Past, Present, and Future: challenges of the National Museum of the American Indian by National Museum of the American Indian

Seven leading thinkers on the presentation of Native American history and contemporary cultures discuss how the essential ideas behind the creation of the National Museum of the American Indian initially were implemented and potentially could evolve. In addition to honoring the leadership and contributions of the museum's founding director, W. Richard West, Jr., the authors explore such topics as repatriation, the representation of Native voices in exhibitions and programs, and the museum's ongoing effort to develop its intellectual authority.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Student Learning & Engagement

Sabrina & Corina by Kali Fajardo-Anstine

Kali Fajardo-Anstine's magnetic story collection breathes life into her Latina characters of indigenous ancestry and the land they inhabit in the American West. Against the remarkable backdrop of Denver, Colorado—a place that is as fierce as it is exquisite—these women navigate the land the way they navigate their lives: with caution, grace, and quiet force.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

The Beadworkers: stories by Beth Piatote

Beth Piatote's luminous debut collection opens with a feast, grounding its stories in the landscapes and lifeworlds of the Native Northwest, exploring the inventive and unforgettable pattern of Native American life in the contemporary world. Told with humor, subtlety, and spareness, the mixed-genre works of Piatote's first collection find unifying themes in the strength of kinship, the pulse of longing, and the language of return.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline

Humanity has nearly destroyed its world through global warming, but now an even greater evil lurks. The indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream. In this dark world, Frenchie and his companions struggle to survive as they make their way up north to the old lands. For now, survival means staying hidden ... but what they don't know is that one of them holds the secret to defeating the marrow thieves.

Suggested by Christina Wray, Student Learning & Engagement

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich

Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

There, There by Tommy Orange

As we learn the reasons that each person is attending the Big Oakland Powwow—some generous, some fearful, some joyful, some violent—momentum builds toward a

shocking yet inevitable conclusion that changes everything. There will be glorious communion, and a spectacle of sacred tradition and pageantry. And there will be sacrifice, and heroism, and loss.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

Tumblr post: <https://ucflibrary.tumblr.com/post/633700907988713472/this-november-take-the-time-to-introduce-yourself>

Blog post: <https://library.ucf.edu/news/featured-bookshelf-native-american-heritage-2020/>