

## **GSWS 3391G/INDIGSTU 3882G: Indigenous Sexualities Summer 2026**

**List of Prerequisites:** 1.0 in any course(s) from IS or GSWS, or special permission.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Komorowski, Assistant Professor

Students can reach me at [jkomoro2@uwo.ca](mailto:jkomoro2@uwo.ca) and can expect a response within 1 business day.

Office hours: in-person tbd

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

**Course Description:** This course examines Indigenous sexualities, with a specific focus on people Indigenous to Turtle Island. Topics will include the historic and contemporary sexualization of Indigenous women and the role this has played in colonization; the decolonization of sexualities, including queer Indigenous concepts such as 2 spirit and indigiqueer; and the reclaiming of Indigenous sexuality through erotica. Possible readings for this course may include work by Joshua Whitehead, the art of Kent Monkman, the writing of Tenille Campbell and Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, and documents such as the 2019 MMIWG Report.

**Learning outcomes:** Students who complete this course will:

1. Be able to apply critical thinking skills to representations of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to understand how colonization has impacted Indigenous communities.
2. Understand how the expression of Indigenous sexualities has been impacted by colonization and genocide.
3. Learn about movements to decolonize sex led by Indigenous peoples.
4. Understand how Indigenous people are reclaiming their sexuality in various ways, including erotica.
5. Develop their research and writing skills through written assignments throughout the term.

### **Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates**

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Short Response Paper 1	10%
Short Response Paper 2	10%
Online weekly responses	25%
In-class Participation	10%
Essay Proposal	10%
End of term Essay	25%

### **Course Materials**

*Love After the End: an Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction* \$22

#IndianLovePoems \$18

### **Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1: (In Person)** The History of Indigenous Women Being Sexualized

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/666288> “Allegory of America”

Excerpt from *Neither Indian Princesses nor Easy Squaws*

**(Online) tbd**

**Week 2:** Sexual Violence

**(In Person)** “Gendered Racial Violence and Spatialized Justice: The Murder of Pamela George” by Sherene Razack

Excerpts from the executive summary of “Reclaiming Power and Place”

[https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive_Summary.pdf)

**(Online)** Media responses to MMIWG Report

**Week 3: (In Person)** Colonization and Control of Sexuality

“The Regulation of First Nations Sexuality” by Martin Cannon

**(Online)** Guide to Indigenous queer terms:

[https://nwac-afac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/29-June-2S\\_Intersections\\_Booklet\\_V2.pdf](https://nwac-afac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/29-June-2S_Intersections_Booklet_V2.pdf)

**Week 4: (In Person)** Queer Futures Possible Guest Speaker

Selections from *Love After the End: an Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction* (ordered to bookstore)

**(Online)** Queering Tradition

Beth Brant “Coyote Learns a New Trick”

Daniel Heath Justice “The Boys Who Became Hummingbirds”

**Week 5: (In Person)** Decolonizing Indigenous Sexuality

The Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics Chapter 11:  
Decolonizing Indigenous Sexualities: Between Erasure and Resurgence

<https://doi-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190673741.013.23>Decolonizing Sex

<https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com/podcast/episode/468a0a6b/decolonizing-sex>

**(Online)** All my Relations “Decolonizing Sex” with Kim Tallbear can be listened to on any podcast app

**Week 6: (In Person)** Indigenous Erotica

Kateri Akiwenzi-Damm *Without Reservation: Indigenous Erotica* Intro

Art of Kent Monkman

**(Online)** Tenille Campbell *#IndianLovePoems* (ordered to bookstore)