As Eric Cheyfitz has recently argued, federal Indian law “has been the indispensable but obscured text and context to an understanding of U.S. Native American oral and written expression.” In her talk, Dr. Meyer unravels some of the legal dimensions of Gerald Vizenor’s 2012 campus novel Chair of Tears, which exposes the ongoing colonial domination of tribal reservation lands and reveals Native American political sovereignty as a historically tainted concept. Through the use of satire, Chair of Tears advocates a different form of sovereignty, an inherent or cultural sovereignty, at whose heart are Native artistic expression, storytelling, mimicry, irony, and humor.

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