ENG 407 Senior Seminar: D’Arcy McNickle and Louise Erdrich
Fall term 2011 CRN 12677
Prof. Gordon Sayre gsayre@uoregon.edu

14:00 - 16:50 Tuesdays in 253 PLC

Office Hours for Fall term 2011 are Mondays 12:30 - 2:30 pm and Thursdays 11:30-12:30
My office is in 472 PLC ph. 346-1313

Both McNickle and Erdrich were born into métis or mixed-blood families on the northern plains, and wrote novels about the life of native and immigrant peoples in and around a fictionalized version of a reservation; the Flathead Reservation in Montana and the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. Both have written children’s books in addition to novels, poetry, memoirs or works of history. By reading several novels by each author, we will have the opportunity to explore key themes and motifs in the work of each, and to learn about Native American history in this region. The amount of reading is substantial, and we have to move quickly because we meet only ten times this term. Happily, these novels will be a pleasure for most of you. Moreover, the small enrollment this upper-division seminar allows each student the opportunity for a class presentation. Please meet with me in advance to develop a topic for this, and select a scholarly article as a topic for your presentation.

Books (at the University Bookstore)
by D’Arcy McNickle: The Surrounded (1936)
Runner in the Sun (1954)
Wind from an Enemy Sky (1978)

by Louise Erdrich: Tracks (1988)
The Birchbark House (1999)
The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse (2001)
The Plague of Doves (2008)

Course requirements:
Critical essays of 6-8 pages each, due October 17th and Dec. 6th
Weekly in-class writing assignments starting in week 2
Class presentation on a work of scholarship about one of the novels we are studying

Grading formula: Quizzes 36% Presentation 14% Essays on each author 25%

Sept. 27 Introduction to the course;
read *Wind from an Enemy Sky* chaps. 1-10 and short story “Snowfall”
watch video, “The Place of the Falling Waters” pt. 1

Oct. 4

*Wind from an Enemy Sky* chaps. 11-32 and “Meat for God”
watch “The Place of the Falling Waters” pt. 2
Presentations: Matthew Carlson on Karen Piper
*Word*  
Micheline Proctor on John Lloyd Purdy’s *Word Ways*

Oct. 11

*The Surrounded*; also read (on blackboard) sources for the tales in chapter 6 and “Hard Riding”
Presentations: Niki Mampe on Enrique Lima article
Robert Rich on ?

Oct. 14

First paper due; hand it in at Prof. Sayre’s office or by email by 5 pm

Oct. 18

*Tracks*
watch video of Bill Moyers interview w/ Erdrich and Michael Dorris
Presentations: Mary Kloster and Evan Robinson

Oct. 25

*The Plague of Doves* pp 1-179
Presentations: Hilary Prochot and Eva Rueskamp

Nov. 1

*The Plague of Doves* pp 180-311
Presentation: Erin Brewer

Nov. 8

*The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* (to end of Pt. 2 p. 158)
Presentations: Angela Beckemeier and Michael O’Brien

Nov. 15

*Little No Horse* Parts 3 and 4 (pp. 254-361)
Presentations: Katie Eaton and Chris Rowe

Nov. 22

*The Birchbark House*
Presentation: Jessica Kelley

Nov. 29

*Runner in the Sun*
Presentations: Kourtney Hannaway and Michael Beaudoin