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 or works of history. By reading several novels by each author, we will have the opportunity to explore the dominant themes and motifs in the work of each, and to learn about Native American history in general. The amount of reading is substantial, but these novels will be a pleasure for most of you. Moreover, the small enrollment this term will make the course more like an upper-division seminar. Each student will have the opportunity for a class presentation. Please meet with me in advance to develop a topic for this.

Course requirements:
Two essays, of 4-5 pages each, due January 26th and March 2nd
Weekly quizzes, weeks 2 through 9
Final exam

Grading formula:
Quizzes 21%
Presentation 9%
Essays on each author 25%
Final exam 20%

Schedule of Readings

Jan. 5  Introduction to the course; read “Hard Riding”
Jan. 7  *Surrounded* chaps. 1-9; and sources for tales in chapter 6
Jan. 12 *Surrounded* chaps. 10-22 and “Meat for God”
Jan. 14 *Surrounded* chaps. 23-34
Jan. 19 *Wind from an Enemy Sky* chaps. 1-10 and “Snowfall”
   watch video, “The Place of Falling Waters” pt. 1
Jan. 21 *Wind from an Enemy Sky* chaps. 11-19
   “The Place of Falling Waters” pt. 2
Jan. 26  
*Wind from an Enemy Sky* chaps. 20-32.  First paper due

Jan. 28  
*The Plague of Doves* pp 1-86 “Evelina” section

Feb. 2  
*The Plague of Doves* pp 87-180 “Antone Basil Coutts” & “Marn Wolde”  
watch video of Bill Moyers interview w/ Louise Erdrich and Michael Dorris

Feb. 4  
*The Plague of Doves* pp 183-311

Feb. 9  
*Tracks* chaps. 1-5  
listen to audiotape of Erdrich reading from the novel

Feb. 11  
*Tracks* chaps. 6-9

Feb. 16  
*Little No Horse* chaps. 1-5

Feb. 18  
*Little No Horse* chaps. 6-8 (to end of Pt. 2 p. 158)

Feb. 23  
*Little No Horse* Pt. 3 (chaps. 9-15 or pp. 161-253)

Feb. 25  
*Little No Horse* Pt. 4 (pp. 254-361)

March 2  
*Birchbark House* chaps. 1-8 (“Summer” & “Fall”)  
Second paper due

March 4  
*Birchbark House* chaps. 9-14 (“Winter” & “Spring”)

March 9  
*Runner in the Sun* chaps. 1-9

March 11  
*Runner in the Sun* chaps. 10-17

March 16  
Final Exam 1 pm