

TWO BY LOUISE ERDRICH

Louise Erdrich is the award-winning author of short stories, novels, poetry, children's books, and nonfiction. She has also written a collaborative novel with Michael Dorris. For this course we will read two novels forming parts of a trilogy: *The Plague of Doves* and *The Round House*. We will spend four weeks with each book.

Erdrich's work is often set on or near Ojibwe Indian reservations. Many characters are members of the Ojibwe tribe. The interactions between tribal people and the non-Indian world outside the reservation are sometimes humorous, sometimes painful, and occasionally violent. Both novels in this course feature vivid characterizations, humor and drama, compelling stories, and eloquence. *The Plague of Doves*, published in 2008, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. *The Round House* (2011) won the National Book Award. (The third volume in the trilogy, *LaRose*, appeared in 2016.)

Unlike some trilogies, these three novels form a trilogy because relatively minor characters in one novel, such as Geraldine in *The Plague of Doves*, reappear in subsequent novels as main characters. Geraldine is a dominant presence in *The Round House*. There are multiple narrators in the first novel, both young and old, and the novel moves from the present to the past and back again. The primary narrator of *The Round House* is a young boy just beginning to grow into manhood when his family suffers a shattering attack. (*LaRose*, which concludes the trilogy and which we will not read, picks up another minor character from *The Round House* and tells her story.)

Participants should be prepared to read between 75 and 100 pages a week. Paperback copies of the Harper Perennial editions of both novels are available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon. Barnes and Noble has stocked extra copies of each book. It is extremely helpful if we all have the same edition of the books so we can readily find passages for discussion.

Two by Louise Erdrich is a discussion course. Additional information will be sent to participants before classes begin in late February.

Leader: Lynne Cullinane has taught previously for Evergreen and is a retired English teacher and adjunct professor at Rider University.

Wednesdays: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 8 weeks: February 28 through April 18.

Location: Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville 8 weeks on Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., February 28 to April 18.