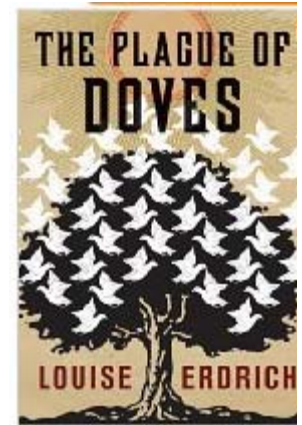


Summer Reading Assignment

Department of English



Dear Majors:

Welcome to Illinois State University's Department of English. As a department that studies the English language, we look at its use in all forms, particularly as text. English is about the social and cultural uses of language, literacies, and texts, past and present, making it both dependent upon other disciplines while at the same time, enriching and supporting work in a number of disciplines. As students in our program become more and more accomplished, you will learn to bring all your abilities, knowledge, and attitudes together on the language situations that your courses and your lives outside the classroom may place you in.

To start your journey as an English Scholar, we are reading Louise Erdrich's *The Plague of Doves*. Her most recent novel, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, is a wonderful investigation of the many literary and cultural tenets explored in English studies. On Friday, August 14 from 9:45 to 10:30, as part the 2009 Passages Welcome Weekend program the English Department will have a department meeting with all new English majors. At this meeting you will meet faculty from the English Department who will lead small group discussions of *The Plague of Doves*. This is an opportunity for you to get to know some faculty and get a taste of what your classroom experience as English majors will be like. While you are on campus, be sure to stop by the Barnes and Noble bookstore in the Bone Student Center to purchase a copy of the book. You may also purchase it from home through the internet, local bookstore, or library. As you read Louise's novel you should take some notes, as some time might pass between when you read the book and when you meet to discuss it.

For more information about Passages please see: www.passages.ilstu.edu.

I look forward to meeting you in August

—Mark Vegter

www.provost.ilstu.edu/summerreading



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