

# A Symposium in Rhetoric: "Ethnicity & Kairos"

*Open to faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars*

The Federation Rhetoric Committee of the Federation of North Texas Area Universities

Texas Woman's University - Denton, Texas

Where: ACT Bldg. 2nd Floor

When: February 24, 2006

A student of the Institute for American Indian Arts asked Native American author Louise Erdrich about criticism received concerning originality and truth in her novels, Erdrich replied, "You have to be very confident in your version of the truth [. . .] Your art has to be your truth. A very mediocre vision seems to please a broad range of people; so, in a way, strong criticism is a positive thing. If you're pleasing a huge segment of the country, what are you? You're reality T.V. or you're the *Bridges of Madison County*, or you're at a level that I don't think reflects the truth of your distinctive experience."

*(Lunch with Louise Erdrich: An Interview. <<http://www.iaiachronicle.org/archives/LunchwithLouise2005.htm>>*

The Federation Rhetoric Committee is seeking papers that reflect the kairos of originality, truth, and the search for identity in American Ethnic Literature.

American Ethnic Literature includes, but not limited to, the following ethnic groups:

Asian Americans  
Native Americans  
Hispanic Americans  
African Americans  
Jewish Americans

*Please take this opportunity to share your papers and introduce listeners to the rich, vibrant tradition of writers who express their sense of identity through fiction.*

## **Kairos: Definition**

*"The opportune occasion for speech. The term kairos has a rich and varied history, but generally refers to the way a given context for communication both calls for and constrains one's speech. Thus, sensitive to kairos, a speaker or writer takes into account the contingencies of a given place and time, and considers the opportunities within this specific context for words to be effective and appropriate to that moment. As such, this concept is tightly linked to considerations of audience (the most significant variable in a communicative context) and to decorum (the principle of apt speech)." Quoted courtesy of Silva Rhetoricae (rhetoric.byu.edu)*

The Rhetoric Symposium broadly defines *Kairos* to incorporate a wide variety of research interests. The panel is interested in papers, which present an interdisciplinary approach to mass communications.

## **Submission guidelines:**

- Proposals should be in abstract form (approximately 250 words); electronic submissions are preferred.
- Please send abstracts and a brief biography to Lynda Davis, [lyndadavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lyndadavis@sbcglobal.net)
- The deadline for submission of all proposals is December 15, 2005

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Brenda Brueggeman of Ohio State University.

For additional details about the symposium, please visit the conference web site: [www.frs.suavecat.com](http://www.frs.suavecat.com)