

Stanford | Continuing Studies

Course Title: Novel II: Plot & Structure
Course Code: 304A
Instructor: Angela Pneuman

Course Summary:

Novel II is designed to allow you to build on your hard work in Novel I. We'll talk about plot, structure, and other issues that writers encounter mid-draft, and we'll discuss techniques for how best to work with the information you have in order to keep pushing forward. We'll also work hard to keep the sense of discovery alive. Surprising yourself, and letting what you've done so far speak to you in unexpected ways, is key to dynamic work. This course is primarily workshop based, and also includes optional weekly ZOOM sessions, optional weekly discussion questions and exercises in both large and small groups, and a half-hour one-on-one conference with the instructor (also optional). In addition to your classmates' workshop submissions, we will read two short novels and refer to one craft book.

Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

50% 30 to 40 (max) new pages of your novel

50% Comments on your classmates' work and participation on discussion threads, to include:

- Mandatory feedback on classmates' submissions (wks 3 to 10)
- Participation in discussions of assigned reading
 - Mandatory wks 1 to 2, AS TIME PERMITS wks 3 to 10
- Weekly assignments and feedback on classmates' weekly assignments
 - Mandatory wks 1 to 2, AS TIME PERMITS wks 3 to 10

Let me know at any time if you have questions about grades.

Please Note: Online Writing Certificate students must take classes for a grade.

Tentative Weekly Outline (subject to change):

Week 1: Getting to Know You and Your Novel-in-Progress
Week 2: Narrative Structures
Week 3: Interiority, Exteriority
Week 4: Scenes and Sections
Week 5: Intensity and/or Stakes
Week 6: Writing Discomfort
Week 7: Subplots and Minor Characters
Week 8: Discover Meaning
Week 9: Casting Forward
Week 10: Joys and Pitfalls: The Writing Life, Sustaining the Long Project

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
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