Course Title: Novel II  
Course Code: OWC 304D  
Instructor: Lauren Kate  

Course Summary:  

Novel II is designed to allow you to build on your hard work in Novel I. You’re at an exciting point in the process of writing, a place where you may begin to feel the book take its shape. We’ll talk about issues that many writers encounter mid-draft and we’ll discuss techniques for how best to work with the information you have about where you’re headed. 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.

Like Novel I, this class will focus on workshop. Everyone will produce between 20 and 30 new pages (5,000 to 7,500 words max) of their book for one full-group workshop. Weekly “lectures,” (the "lectures and lessons" in our schedule) readings and writing assignments will center around issues such as managing scenes and sections, handling subplots and minor characters, thinking forward to the end, sustaining a long project, and much more.

Grade Options and Requirements:  

- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)  
  - Students must participate in at least 70% of weekly discussions and/or Zoom sessions, and complete a piece of written work (to be discussed further in class).
Please prioritize accordingly over the course of the quarter:

1. Completion of 20 to 30 new pages (5,000 to 7,500 words max) of your novel
2. Thoughtful feedback on your classmates’ submissions (Weeks 3 through 10)
3. Meaningful participation in our discussions of assigned reading
4. Weekly assignments—mandatory Weeks 1 and 2, optional Weeks 3 to 10

The grade breakdown will be as follows:

40% Your new fiction
60% Comments on your classmates’ work and participation on discussion threads

Tentative Zoom Schedule*:

Wednesdays from 12-1pm PST

*Please note that the Zoom schedule is subject to change. The live video sessions are recorded; student attendance is optional

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week One: Getting to Know You and Your Novel-in-Progress
Week Two: Intensity and/or Stakes
Week Three: Narrative Structures (Workshops Begin)
Week Four: Interiority, Exteriority (Workshops Continue)
Week Five: Scenes and Sections (Workshops Continue)
Week Six: Writing Discomfort (Workshops Continue)
Week Seven: Subplots and Minor Characters (Workshops Continue)
Week Eight: Discover Meaning (Workshops Continue)
Week Nine: Outlining & Other Graphic Approaches (Workshops Continue)
Week Ten: Casting Forward (Workshops Continue)