Course Title: Novel II: Plot and Structure
Course Code: OWC 304 B
Instructor: Thomas H. McNeely

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 30 and 40 (max) new pages of their book for one full-group workshop and one small-group workshop. Weekly “lectures,” (the introductions in our schedule) readings and writing assignments will center around issues such as raising the stakes of your novel, finding the right fictional form, managing scenes and sections, handling subplots and minor characters, thinking forward to the end, and much more.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions and complete all assigned work.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week One: Getting to Know Your Novel-In-Progress
Week Two: Intensity and Stakes
Week Three: Narrative Structure
Week Four: Interiority / Exteriority
Week Five: Scenes and Sections
Week Six: Writing Discomfort
Week Seven: Subplots and Minor Characters  
Week Eight: Discovering Meaning  
Week Nine: Outlining and Other Graphic Approaches  
Week Ten: Casting Forward  

**Zoom Schedule:**  

Weekly Zoom schedule will be discussed at the beginning of class and decided by students.