



Course Title: Novel III
Course Code: OWC 305 C
Instructor: Martha Conway

Course Summary:

In Novel III, students will continue writing their novels, advancing the work begun in Novel I and Novel II. Our emphasis will be on producing pages; to that end, every student will be required to submit 500-1,000 words of their novel every week. While there will be required reading on craft, we will *not* read and analyze a novel as a group activity. Instead, the majority of student time will be spent writing and, in small groups, responding to the work of other students. In addition, each week we will discuss a different craft topic, such as character development; action and reflection; time progression; theme; and subtext.

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

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Students will be required to submit at least 500 words (scenes, chapters, or partial scenes or chapters) per week.
 - Students must also participate in at least 80% of weekly discussions and/or Zoom sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Students will be required to submit at least 750 words (scenes, chapters, or partial scenes or chapters) per week.
 - Students must also participate in 100% of weekly discussions and/or Zoom sessions.

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
 365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
 continuingstudies@stanford.edu
 650-725-2650

Required Books/Materials:

- *The Complete Handbook of Novel Writing; Interviews and Articles, 3rd Edition*; multiple authors.
- *The Art of Subtext*; Charles Baxter.
- Online Articles; multiple authors.

Tentative Zoom Schedule*:

Thursdays at 3pm Pacific Time.

**Please note that the Zoom schedule is subject to change.*

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1: Describe Your Novel

Reading: "Fire Up Your Fiction" by Donald Maas; *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 34-37.

Exercise: Describe your novel

Write: 500-1,000 words of your manuscript

Week 2: Your Character's Journey

Reading: "Character Study" by Alice Hoffman; *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 80-82;

"How to Stretch Your Character," by David Corbett, pp. 90-97;

"Status," by Steven James, pp. 106-113.

Supplemental reading: All the remaining essays in "Best-selling Advice: Characters," *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 80-119.

Exercise: Chart / write a list of emotional plot points (the protagonist's emotional journey)

Write: 500-1,000 words of your manuscript

Week 3: Writing to the Midpoint

Reading: "The Hero's Journey" by Paula Munier, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 41-46;

"The Two Pillars of Novel Structure," by James Scott Bell, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 47-52.

Exercise: Write a scene list of your manuscript (including scenes you haven't yet written)

Write: 500-1,000 words of your manuscript

Week 4: Driving Your Story Forward

Reading: "The Essential Endgame Structure" by Larry Brooks, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 59-64;

Interview with Khaled Hosseini, "Moving Mountains," *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 437-444.

Exercise: Find 86% mark; revise your scene list

Write: 500-1,000 words of your manuscript

Week 5: Scene versus Summary

Reading: "Creating a Scene," *The Art of Subtext* pp. 115-142.

Write: 500-1,000 words of your manuscript

Week 6: Time Progression; Crowding and Leaping

Reading: Online links.

Write: 500-1,000 words of your manuscript

Week 7: Layering Information into Your Story

Reading: "Weaving in a Seamless Backstory," by Karen Dionne, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 53-58.

Write: 500-1,000 words of your manuscript

Week 8: Subtext

Reading: Read: "Digging the Subterranean," *The Art of Subtext* pp. 33-61.

Write: 500-2,000 words of your manuscript

Week 9: Themes and Through-lines

Reading: "Transform your Novel into a Symphony" by Elizabeth Sims, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 122-128;

"Something to Say: Weaving Theme into Your Novel," by Donald Maas, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 129-134.

Write: 500-2,000 words of your manuscript

Week 10: Inspiration and Perspiration

Reading: "Break the Blocks to Creative Flow" by Jordan Rosenfeld, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 177-183;

"Your Revision Checklist" by Josip Novakovich, *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, pp. 230-237.

Write: 500-2,000 words of your manuscript