Course Title: No Critics, No Fear: Write a Novel in Thirty Days
Course Code: NVL 37
Instructor: Samina Ali

Course Summary:
Is it possible to write a novel in a month? Sarah Gruen (Water for Elephants) and Hugh Howey (Wool) are just two bestselling authors who did just that. With a healthy dose of determination and the support of this course, you can too! For the month of November, aka National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), we will set out together to write a novel, with the goal of fast-drafting NaNoWriMo-style from start to finish. This process will be generative, playful, and necessarily uncritical. In the week before November, we will do some planning and plotting, revving our engines. Once November hits, each weekday your goal will be to write 1,500 words. To that end, you will receive daily prompts to keep you rolling as well as weekly lessons in different aspects of the novel-writing craft—inciting incident, character building, narrative arc, plotting. In addition to the online lectures, the instructor will provide two ninety-minute live online sessions every week. During these sessions, you will have the opportunity to take a deeper dive into craft techniques, participate in writing exercises, and regularly come together with a supportive writing community, all of which will inspire you onward. While students will not receive feedback from the instructor, there will be a daily accountability thread and the option of joining small groups to share work with classmates. At the end of the course, students will celebrate their accomplishments and look toward the next steps in getting their first draft completed.

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 must attend and/or watch at least 10 class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend and/or watch at least 90% of class 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.

Zoom Schedule:

6 Tuesdays, October 19 - November 30
6 Thursdays, October 21 - December 2
No class the week of Thanksgiving
5:30 - 7:00 pm (PT)

**Tentative Weekly Outline:**

Week 1: Imagining the World of Your Story
Week 2: Creating a loose outline
Week 3: Character Development
Week 4: Plot and Story Arc
Week 5: World Building
Week 6: Revision & Moving Forward

**Course Structure**

Weekly Module Content

Each module typically includes the following:
- Craft Lecture
- Writing Exercises

On Canvas, students will announce a weekly writing goal. For example, “I will write 5000 words a week.” The writing goal will be announced at the beginning of the course. At the end of each week, students will submit how much they achieved. “My goal was 5000 words; I wrote 6500.” Or, “My goal was 5000 words and I wrote 3500.” This will create a sense of class community as well as inspiration for writers to continue forging ahead.

**Note About Live Attendance and Recording:**

These class sessions will be recorded.

Live participation is required in order for students to receive the full benefit of the course. Class recordings are not intended to be a replacement or substitute for class attendance.