



Course Title: Be Your Own Developmental Editor: Shape Your Manuscript for Publication

Course Code: CW 18

Instructor: Shirin Yim Leos

Quarter: Winter 2022

Course Schedule: 6 Thursdays, February 3 - March 17*, 6:30 - 9:20 pm (PT)

*No class on March 10

Course Summary

Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Note About Live Attendance and Recording

This course will not be recorded.

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 at least 4 of 6 class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Students must meet the following attendance and assignment requirements:
 - A - Attend all six meetings, complete all assignments
 - B - Attend five meetings, complete five assignments
 - C - Attend four meetings, complete four assignments
 - D - Attend three meetings, complete three assignments

**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.*

Tentative Weekly Outline

Week 1

- What is dev editing and why are we talking about it?
- Course overview
- Current state of the publishing industry
- What is developmental editing
- What are your goals?
- Group exercise: The Dear Stevo letter
- Q&A
- Homework: 500 word synopsis

Week 2

- Let's start with the plot
- To beat or not to beat? The role of beat sheets
- Freytag's classic and modern pyramids
- Emotional arc vs. plot
- Breakout group 1: Plot
- Q&A
- Homework: Read first pages

Week 3

- Challenging your characters
- Internal and external conflicts
- Empathy vs. likability
- Emotion, motivation, and agency
- Earning the ending: Rocks, rocks, and bigger rocks
- Breakout group 2: Characters
- Q&A
- Homework: Revise and review first pages

Week 4

- You need tension
- Setting clocks ticking
- Writing in the magnet
- The worthy antagonist
- The author's cue: pace
- Breakout group 3: Tension
- Q&A
- Homework: Revise and review first pages

Week 5

- Finer details and author's foibles
- Conveniences
- Rescues
- Uncertainties
- Pets and clichés
- Breakout group 4: Details and foibles
- Q&A
- Homework: Revise first pages and original synopsis

Week 6

- Where to go next
- Learning the craft
- Writers' groups and beta readers
- Available resources

- Professional help
- Pressing send
- Final Q&A