



**Course Title:** Novel II: Plot and Structure

**Course Code:** OWC 304 D

**Instructor Name and Bio:** Jack Livings / [jacklivings.com/about](http://jacklivings.com/about)

### **Class Sessions and Recording**

Meeting days and times: Thursdays, 11AM Pacific

Meeting location: Zoom

The class sessions will be recorded.

### **Course Features:**

- Live session
  - Discussion and Q&A (Weeks 1-3)
  - Workshop (Weeks 4-10)
- Assignments & Coursework
  - Assignments and course materials posted in Canvas
  - Required discussions in Canvas
  - Students will submit one large workshop piece
  - Instructor will provide feedback on assignments
- Individual conferences available by request

### **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 feel the book beginning to take a shape. However, even if you don't see a shape on the horizon, even if you feel you're still working out the first chapter, the work we'll do here will be of use to you. 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 around 20 to 30 new pages (5,000 to 7,500 words) of his or her book for one workshop. Weekly lessons, 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

I ask that you to prioritize accordingly over the course of the quarter:

Completion of between 20 and 30 new pages (up to 7,500 words) of your novel;

Thoughtful feedback on your classmates' submissions (Weeks 4 through 10);

Meaningful and frequent participation in our discussions of assigned reading and weekly assignments; this is mandatory Weeks 1-3 and optional Weeks 4-10.

The grade breakdown will be as follows:

50% 20-30 pages (up to 7,500 words) of new fiction

50% Comments on your classmates' work and participation on discussion threads

Discussion credit will be given to responses that are reflective and thoroughly address the prompt. Posting in the "General Class Comments and Question" thread does not count towards credit.

Letter grades will be assigned according to these general standards: A=Excellent (90-100%), B=Good (80-89%), C=Satisfactory (70-79%), D=Minimal Pass (60-69%).

## Textbooks/Required Materials

*The Son of Good Fortune* by Lysley Tenorio

*The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez

## Tentative Weekly Outline

<b>Week 1:</b>	Getting to Know Your Novel-in-Progress
<b>Week 2:</b>	Intensity and/or Stakes
<b>Week 3:</b>	Narrative Structure
<b>Week 4:</b>	Interiority / Exteriority

**PRELIMINARY COURSE SYLLABUS**

<b>Week 5:</b>	Scenes and Sections
<b>Week 6:</b>	Writing Discomfort
<b>Week 7:</b>	Subplots and Minor Characters
<b>Week 8:</b>	Discovering Meaning
<b>Week 9:</b>	Notecards, Outlining, and Other Graphic Approaches
<b>Week 10:</b>	Casting Forward

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