Course Title: Fiction Writing: Building a Unique and Compelling World

Course Code: WSP 103

Instructor: Michael David Lukas

General Expectations: Regular attendance and participation are vital to your success. Habitual tardiness and/or unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade. Being present also means being engaged with the discussions and in-class exercises. Thus, I ask you to please turn off cell phones and keep laptops closed (except during in-class exercises).

Day One:

Introduction to World Building
Readings: Kazou Ishiguro, Never Let Me Go, pp 3-7
Exercise: Find an example of world building at home

Step One: Rules and Assumptions
Readings: Adam Johnson, The Orphan Master’s Son, pp 7-10
Exercise: Revealing a hidden rule or assumption

Step Two: Backstory
Readings: Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale, pp 23-29
Exercise: Putting some backstory into it

Step Three: Setting/Place
Readings: Toni Morrison, Sula, pp 3-6
Exercise: Setting up your world

Day Two:

Step Four: Character and Dialogue
Readings: Abraham Verghese, Cutting for Stone, pp 31-33
Exercise: Day in the life
Step Five: Beginnings

Readings: Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games, pp 3-11
Exercise: A whole new world

Step Six: Plotting

Reading: Ray Bradbury, “All Summer in a Day”
Exercise: Outlining and coloring in