



LJWL(es)

WRI6022/5022 – Advanced Fiction Workshop

3

Spring 2026

M 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm**Bond Academic Center (BAC) 151****Final Exam: Wednesday, 1 May, 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Instructor title and name: | Dr. Breeann Kyte Kirby |
| Phone: | (619) 339 - 9843 |
| Email: | bkirby@pointloma.edu |
| Office location and hours: | BAC 109 by appointment |

PLNU Mission**To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

Advanced instruction and guided workshop in writing fiction. Attention is also given to methodology in teaching fiction writing and to finding publication.

Focus for SPRING 2026 will be worldbuilding: what are the elements of worldbuilding, what does it contribute to story, what does successful worldbuilding look like.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete WRI 5022/6022 will be able to:

1. Identify advanced aspects of theory, style, and structure in works of fiction;
2. Analyze fiction written by professionals and peers to determine authors' writing techniques in relationship to target audiences and genre conventions;
3. Employ advanced research techniques as necessary to meet the demands of fiction craft and content;
4. Craft stories using advanced techniques specific to genre to create descriptive and evocative language;
5. Apply advanced workshop techniques for constructive criticism of peers and in turn take criticism and use it to improve their own work;
6. Format texts in a genre-appropriate and professional manner for submission to workshop and publication;
7. Present written work to live audiences, demonstrating advanced strategies for audience engagement and oral communication.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the program will be able to:

1. Create various forms and genres of writing, evidencing artistic, literary, and stylistic merit.
2. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the conventions and terminology of creative writing within literary texts.
3. Collaborate in editorial and publishing processes through campus publications for external audiences.
4. Perform advanced creative work to formal audiences, demonstrating strategies for audience engagement and oral communication of written work.
5. *[For Pedagogy Concentration Only:]* Teach using composition theory and pedagogy in the composition classroom.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Various Canvas Resources and Excerpts from these books:

Hickson, Timothy. *On Writing and Worldbuilding, Vol. III*. 2023. ISBN: 9780473694043

Maas, Donald. *The Emotional Craft of Fiction*. Writer's Digest Books, 2016.
ISBN: 9781440348372

Hickson, Timothy. *On Writing and Worldbuilding, Vol. II*. 2021. ISBN: 9780473591336

Vandermeer, Jeff. *Wonderbook: The Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction*. Abrams Image, 2013. ISBN: 9781419704420

Savage, Steven. *Way With Worlds: Crafting Great Fictional Settings, 1*. 2016.
ISBN: 9781533164797

Wolf, Mark J.P. *Building Imaginary Worlds: The Theory and History of Subcreation*.
Routledge, 2012. ISBN: 9780415631204

Example texts you will share with the class

Recommended (if you like workbooks):

Holladay, T.M. *The Only Worldbuilding Workbook You'll Ever Need*. Series Bibles for Writers, 2020. ISBN: 9798630118363

Loper, Rebekah. *The A-Zs of Worldbuilding: Building a Fictional World From Scratch*.
Fantasia Hearth Press, 2017. ISBN: 9780692850558

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

Assessment and Grading

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| In-Class/Participation Work | 10% |
| Worldbuilding Presentation | 10% |
| Attend Writers' Symposium (3) | 10% |
| Workshops | 40% |
| Critique Letters | 30% |

Grading Scale:

| | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| A=93-100 | B-=80-82 | D+=67-69 |
| A-=92-90 | C+=77-79 | D=63-66 |
| B+=87-89 | C=73-76 | D-=60-62 |
| B=83-86 | C-=70-72 | F=0-59 |

Contract grading note:

A Contract = everything (100%)

B Contract = 3 workshops, two symposium events, ALL critique letters, worldbuilding mentor text presentation, in-class work (85%)

C Contract = 3 workshops, one symposium event, ALL critique letters, in-class work (75%)

Sharing Work

It is important for you to practice speaking and sharing writing publicly. Respect in this course is a must. This course is a safe space. As we discuss and analyze each other's works that may address potentially volatile themes, and we will encounter many different viewpoints. Much of the work we will do in this course is cooperative. You should think of all your reading, writing, and speaking for and in course as public, not private, discourse. **By continuing in this course, you acknowledge that your work will be viewed by others in the course.**

This course will ask you to write whatever you want to write about, but do recognize that there is a line between what is appropriate and not appropriate in a classroom setting, especially with regard to what is being shared with your classmates, who may not share your values. I respect your privacy and truly believe that this class should allow you creative freedom, so all I will ask is that you use common sense with regard to what is/is not appropriate to write in an academic setting. If you are unsure/nervous or have a hunch that something might be questionable, please discuss your ideas with me in advance of bringing them to workshop.¹

For those of you who are already strong and confident in your opinions and abilities, be sensitive to others who are not. Sometimes take the lead in recognizing when others want to talk, asking them for their opinion and feedback. In order to be a good participant in this course, you must be sensitive to your fellow learners, recognizing them as human just as you are.

As we share our work, personal insults and comments will not be tolerated. I will ask you to leave the discussion or class if you cannot be kind. If you aren't sure how to phrase your opinion, please ask me.

For all of us, assume the best about the person speaking. Sometimes we need to hear what we are saying before we understand exactly what we are saying. Ask for clarification; respectfully disagree. The best rule to follow: **be kind.**

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU Spiritual Care

PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain, or if you have prayer requests, you can contact the [Office of Student Life and Formation](#).

¹ This paragraph is taken from Robbie Maakestad's WRI2020 syllabus.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Graduate Academic and General Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

If it is part of your process, you are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski, Lex, etc.) in this course. However, you are required to speak to me before you begin an assignment about how you plan to use this tool in your work. Another thing to note: most publications DO NOT allow use of AI in creative works. At this current cultural moment, using AI will limit where you can publish.

Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](#)

[APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT](#)

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](#)

Further, you must include with your draft(s) the sequential prompts and methodology that you used to generate the creative piece. **Failure to indicate AI as part of the work will be considered plagiarism.**

It is important that you protect your colleagues' intellectual property. Critiques of your colleagues' works may not be done with the help of AI. Providing AI with samples of your colleagues' works (even if it is a closed LLM) will result in an F in this course.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

*tl;dr Please don't disappear. Talk to me if you're struggling, and I will help you make a plan. I want you to complete this course successfully.

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Center for Enriching Relationships

PLNU graduate students are able to receive *free* face-to-face and telehealth counseling services through the Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling program (MACC). This service is provided by supervised therapists-in-training at the Center for Enriching Relationships. To contact the Center for Enriching Relationships, please call 619-858-3105 or visit <https://www.enrichingrelationships.org/plnu-macc> to submit an online request. Your inquiry is confidential. Please note that once the form is submitted it may take up to two days to process and respond to your request.

If you need emergency assistance, please call 911 or the Access and Crisis Line at (888) 724-7240.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital

status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/Title-IX.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements.

If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.

Refer to [Academic Policies](#) for additional detail.

For synchronous courses which have specific scheduled meeting times (including in-person, hybrid, and synchronous online courses), absences are counted from the first official meeting of the class regardless of the date of the student's enrollment. For courses with specific attendance requirements, those requirements are outlined in the course syllabus.

Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the this learning environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Workshop/Presentations
DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters
DUE: Worldbuilding Mentor Text Presentation Materials

Week 7
23 February

Workshop/Presentations
DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters
DUE: Worldbuilding Mentor Text Presentation Materials

ATTEND: [Writers' Symposium Events](#)

Week 8
2 March

Workshop/Presentations
DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters
DUE: Worldbuilding Mentor Text Presentation Materials

Week 9
9 March

Spring Break

Week 10
16 March

CR: Maas *The Emotional Craft of Fiction* (excerpt); pp. 27 – 56
Workshop/Presentations
DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters
DUE: Worldbuilding Mentor Text Presentation Materials

Week 11
23 March

Workshop/Presentations
DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters
DUE: Worldbuilding Mentor Text Presentation Materials

Week 12
30 March

Workshop/Presentations
DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters
DUE: Worldbuilding Mentor Text Presentation Materials

Week 13
6 April

Easter Break

Week 14
13 April

CR: Vandermeer *Wonderbook* Part 1 & 2 (excerpt); pp. 211 – 244
Workshop/Presentations

DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters
DUE: Worldbuilding Mentor Text Presentation Materials

Week 15

20 April

Workshop/Presentations
DUE: Workshop Materials
DUE: Critique letters

Week 16

27 April

Celebration
Workshop
DUE: Critique letters

Week 17

6 – 10 May

Finals Week
Go to the Readings!!!