# WRT 576.06: Writing in the Primary Genre II

# Fall 2024

# Contact and Course Information

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**Instructor:** Erik Ofgang

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**Course Number:** WRT 576-06

**Semester and Year:** Spring 2024

**Credit Hours:** 4

## Course Description

This second required course in the primary genre will further develop the writer’s skills. Again, students

will research, develop, and write a project or projects for the course.

## Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

* Incorporate advanced techniques for plotting, building tension, and developing character in his own writing;
* Understand the process of writing a full-length novel, including choices about page-count and theme;
* Discuss commonalities within “dark” science fiction stories that deal with the apocalypse or related topics and themes and understand where his novel in progress fits in this sub-genre of speculative fiction;
* Recognize formatting, revision, and tone expectations for a publishable quality modern work.

## Course Requirements

The student will produce between 50 and 80 pages of new material or more from his work in progress, which is a novel with the work title *Children Last*. The story will explore how the characters deal with imminent death, while knowing there is no hope for their own or anyone else’s survival. It is inspired, in part, by the work of Viktor Frankl and Primo Levi. The student will also revisit or read for the first time five novels with similarly dark themes and explore how the authors were able to build tension, provoke thought, and maintain reader interest while describing characters who confront hopelessness and imminent death. These readings will inform the writing and will be discussed in detail with the instructor.

## Books/Materials Required

1. "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy
2. “The Stand” by Stephen King
3. "Earth Abides" by George R. Stewart
4. "On the Beach" by Nevil Shute
5. "The Great Sky River" by Gregory Benford
6. "The Light of Other Days" by Arthur C. Clarke

# Course Expectations Course Expectations

## Attendance and Participation

This course is online but the student and instructor will be in regular communication via email and scheduled phone, video or in-person meetings.

## Grading

### Grading Breakdown

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Course Requirements | Percentage or Points |
| Content of the 50-80 pages submitted | 50 % |
| Grammar and spelling | 15 % |
| Communication and engagement with class ideas and assignments | 20 % |
| Timely submissions | 15 % |
| Total: | 100 % |

### Letter Grades

[Provide a grading scale for the course. The university uses the following grading scale to determine overall GPA. The table is formatted correctly.]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Range |
| A | 100% to 94% |
| A- | <94% to 90% |
| B+ | <90% to 87% |
| B | <87% to 84% |
| B- | <84% to 80% |
| C+ | <80% to 77% |
| C | <77% to 74% |
| C- | <74% to 70% |
| D+ | <70% to 67% |
| D | <67% to 64% |
| D- | <64% to 61% |
| F | <61% to 0% |

## Assignments

Assignments should be submitted via email as Word or Google docs or an equivalent file type. These submissions should be made by midnight on the due date

### Late Assignments

Material must be submitted on time. Submissions more than 24 hours late will be penalized up to 10 points for each additional day they are late. If the student requires an extension that request should be made in advance.

# Course Policies

## Students with Disabilities

\*AccessAbility Services engages in an interactive process with each student and reviews requests for accommodations on an individualized, case-by-case basis. Depending on the nature of the functional limitations of the student’s documented disability, he/she may be eligible for accommodations. AAS collaborates with students and their faculty to coordinate approved accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact AccessAbility Services (AAS) as soon as possible. You may contact AAS by calling (203) 837-8225 (voice), (203) 837-3235 (TTY) or by e-mailing [aas@wcsu.edu](mailto:aas@wcsu.edu). Detailed information regarding the process to request accommodations is available on the AAS website at: [AccessAbility Services](https://www.wcsu.edu/accessability) ([www.wcsu.edu/accessability)](https://www.wcsu.edu/accessability). If your request for accommodation(s) is approved and you request accommodation letters, an accommodation letter will be emailed to faculty members. (Note: Student request for accommodations must be filed each semester and accommodations are not retroactive.)

## Department of Creative and Professional Writing Policy on Academic Honesty

The Department of Creative and Professional Writing follows the University guidelines regarding academic honesty and issues of plagiarism, which are available in the catalog on the University website at <https://www.wcsu.edu/catalogs/undergraduate/academic-services-procedures/>.

In the specific context of writing, we highlight some particular problems with plagiarism. Plagiarism violations include:

* Submitting material that is not one’s own. This includes the use of any artificial intelligence tool for composing any assignment.
* Using material – words and/or ideas – directly from a source without proper citation and attribution.
* Submitting a project written for one course, past or present, as new material in another course without the explicit permission of the instructor.

To emphasize: the use of artificial intelligence or other text generators for any assignment is prohibited in all Writing courses. Using ChatGPT or other similar tools to "get started" is a violation of this policy.

## The Writing Center

Experienced writers know the best way to become an even stronger writer is to *talk with other writers*. The Writing Center is a great place to do that. The Writing Center offers one-to-one consultations on writing for any class, at any stage, from brainstorming and developing outlines to writing strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit the [Writing Center website](https://wcsu.edu/writingcenter) ([wcsu.edu/writingcenter](https://wcsu.edu/writingcenter)).

# Course Schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class Week/ Number | Topics/Chapter | Reading | Assignment | Due Date/Time | Other |
|  |  | “The Road” by Cormac McCarthy | Packet 1 consisting of 20 or more pages | Feb. 2 |  |
|  |  | “The Stand” by Stephen King | Packet 2 consisting of 20 or more pages | Feb. 23 |  |
|  |  | “Earth Abides” by George R. Stewart | Packet 3 consisting of 20 or more pages | Mar. 15 |  |
|  |  | “On the Beach” by Nevil Shute | Packet 4 consisting of 20 or more pages | Apr. 5 |  |
|  |  | “The Great Sky River” by Gregory Benford | Packet 5 consisting of 20 or more pages | Apr. 26 |  |
|  |  | “The Light of Other Days” by Arthur C. Clarke | Revision of 40 or more pages | May 10 |  |
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Diversity and Inclusion Statement  
I am committed to creating a course that is inclusive in its design and supports diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences as well as honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). To accomplish this:

* If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official WCSU records, please let me know.
* If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don’t hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.
* I welcome feedback that will assist me in improving the usability and experience for all students.

## Emergency Procedures

Detailed information on the essentials to cope with most campus emergencies can be found within the [WCSU Emergency Procedure Guides](https://www.wcsu.edu/emergency-management/emergency-procedure-guide/) (www.wcsu.edu/emergency-management/emergency-procedure-guide/).

## Mental Health Support

College students often experience issues that may interfere with their academic success such as stress, difficulty sleeping, managing expectations/responsibilities, life events, relationship challenges and feelings of anxiety, hopelessness, and depression. At any point in the semester, if you encounter difficulty with the course or feel you could be performing at a higher level, please schedule a time to meet with me. Should you be struggling in multiple classes, or unsure what academic resources are available to you, please outreach to your Advisor. For mental health challenges, please reach out to our Counseling Services for counseling and psychiatric services. Counseling Services can be reached at 203-837-8691.   
**24-Hour Emergency Numbers:**

* Suicide Prevention Line:  988
* Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
* Crisis Text Line for Students of Color: Text STEVE to 741741
* Trevor Lifeline (LGBTQ): 866-488-7386
* Trans Lifeline: 877-565-8860
* National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233 or Text Loveis to 22522
* Sexual Assault Hotline: 888-999-5545

## On Campus Emergency Contact Information

* You may dial 911 from any campus phone or cell phone
* University Police Dispatch – 203-837-9300

## Weather and Emergency Alerts

Information on current weather or emergency alerts can be found in the following locations:

* 203-837-9377
* [WCSU Homepage](http://www.wcsu.edu/) (www.wcsu.edu)
* You are highly encouraged to sign up for the [emergency alert system](http://www.wcsu.edu/ens) (www.wcsu.edu/ens). This will send alerts directly to your phone.

Withdrawal Policy  
Please be aware of the university policy regarding withdrawal. You may withdraw from the course without academic penalty through the official withdrawal deadline. After the deadline it is up to the instructor to decide if a withdrawal request should be granted without penalty. It is strongly recommended that you follow the school deadline. Note that withdrawing from a class may have a negative effect on financial aid, sports involvement, on-campus housing, and time to graduation. The department strongly recommends you consult with an advisor before withdrawing.