



ADVANCED FICTION EDITING 301

Instructor: Kristen Stieffel

Course Outline

Lesson 1: Character Arcs

- Goal, Motivation, and Conflict
- The Fatal Flaw
- The Unlikeable Protagonist
- Tracing the Character Arc

Lesson 2: Plot Arcs

- The Hero's Journey
- Fabulous Forces
- Three-Act Structure
- Try/Fail Cycles
- The Story Chain

Lesson 3: Story

- Two Stories in One
- Openings and Closings
- The *In Medias Res* Pitfall
- Prologues and Epilogues
- Satisfying Endings
- The Difference Between a Twist and a Trick

Lesson 4: Structure

- Book Mapping
- How to Make a Text-Based Book Map
- Alternative Mapping Techniques
- Visual Book Map
- Mind the Gaps

Lesson 5: Viewpoint

- First Person
- Second Person
- Third Person: Narrator Viewpoint vs. Character Viewpoint
- Choosing What Viewpoint to Use
- Using Better Terminology
- Avoiding Viewpoint Slips

Lesson 6: Deep Point of View

- Who Will Carry the Viewpoint?
- How Deep Will We Go into the Character's Psyche?
- Beware of Excessive Psychic Distance
- How to Control the Camera
- Blending Viewpoints