

**CREW 355 Special Topic: World-Building workshop
(20 points)**

This is an advanced creative writing workshop for writers interested in long-form narrative (especially speculative fiction and fantasy). Students will collaborate to develop a single story while working individually on the different components of successful world-building, including characterisation, structure, point-of-view, dialogue and pace. This collaborative classroom work will result in a novel. Each student will be assessed on their work in the chapters which are their individual contribution to the novel. The course is aimed at aspiring novelists as well as writers for film and television. The workshop will encourage students to become skilled readers of classic world-building texts as well as becoming knowing, confident and daring storytellers. Weekly workshops will be held for the discussion of readings, set exercises, and students' work in progress. The Course Reader contains characteristic samples and examples and will be available from the IIML from early 2021.

The convener is **Elizabeth Knox**.

Elizabeth Knox is the internationally acclaimed author of many novels, including *The Vintner's Luck*, *Wake*, *Mortal Fire* and *The Dreamhunter Duet*. Her essays on writing are collected in *The Love School*. She blogs at www.elizabethknox.com/.

Elizabeth writes:

"A common difficulty people have with world building is the problem of too many decisions, so many that it's hard to see where one decision should guide another; it is all meat, and there's nothing pushing back, nothing bony and necessary. A way around this is to have your inventions gain form and solidity by pushing up against the inventions of others. This world-building course provides an opportunity to do that, to make a collaborative story, exploring your own fictional provocations, and developing your voice (without getting the helmet of your character stuck on your storyteller's head)."

→ see over

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Who Should Apply

This course would be ideal for writers interested in fantasy and speculative fiction. Writers from other disciplines such as film and television are also encouraged to apply. You do not need to have published fiction to apply.

How to Enrol

Enrolment in CREW 355 is limited to 12 students. The prerequisite is 40 points at 200 level and the approval of the Programme Director. Because of demand for places the quality of the writing sample which accompanies applications is critical in deciding admissions.

Application and enrolment: must be lodged online by going to university home page and follow the links: www.wgtn.ac.nz/

Prospective applicants are recommended to visit the How to Apply page of our website. Go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters for more details.

Workshops

Where: The Stout Research Centre, Room 203, 12 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus
When: Trimester 2, Wednesdays 10am-1pm.

Assessment

The course is assessed by a folio of writing submitted immediately after the final workshop. Folios are examined on a pass/fail basis by the Course Convenor.

Reading

The readings will be available online, on Nuku. The Course Convenor may also make reading suggestions based on your individual project. There are, in addition, two books which will give you some idea of what to expect from our workshops as well as providing resources for developing your work. *Mutes & Earthquakes* brings together essays and creative work from a wide range of writers who have connections with the IIML. More recently, *The Exercise Book* presents favourite writing exercises across a variety of genres, including poetry, prose and scriptwriting.

Please note that our workshops are not a classroom version of a writing manual: we do not teach a specific set of predetermined skills. Our aim is to develop the imaginative capacity and individual literary skills of emerging writers in a stimulating workshop environment.