

Major Morning Track: Fiction

Fiction: Taking Your Story to the Next Level  

TUESDAY-SATURDAY, 9:00-10:30 AM, SATURDAY-MONDAY, 11:00 AM - 12:00PM
LOCATION: YOUTH MEMORIAL



T. Davis Bunn
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Day One

A. How to realize the power of Point of View

This is a crucial element of solid fiction, and one that is too often misunderstood. When properly utilized, POV becomes a powerful tool for heightening the quality of your work. It is the single most important factor in drawing your reader deep into the story, and holding them there.

B. Structure of characters.

Specific components will be explained and structured, offering a clear method for drawing life into your people and your page.

C. Power of dialogue

This is not merely an issue that pertains to what lies inside the quotation marks. Once again, this comes back to the POV, and how this helps to create a constancy and flow in your story's design.

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D. Artistic voice

Day Two: Plot

A. Overview of dramatic elements

How do these forge into a story arc?

B. The outlining process

Outlining can be used to distill the whirlwind of possible ideas and characters down to those elements which are genuinely crucial to making a successful story.

C. Elements that go into the structuring of a solid premise

We will examine the elements that go into the structuring of a solid premise, and how to build this into a 'what if' concept that will help sell your book.

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D. Structure of the key dilemma

We will look at the structure of the key dilemma, and how to build this through the story arc.

E. Components of good plotting

We will consider components of good plotting that include beat structure, story pacing, first chapter, and emotional setting.

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Day Three

A. What some highly successful members of the commercial fiction world have to say about building a story that sells

Today's discussion will build upon the foundations laid during the first two classes, and take a close look at what a number of highly successful members of the commercial fiction world have to say about building a story that sells. Lessons will be drawn from top agents, film producers, bestselling novelists, and editors. Points will be drawn from people including Sol Stein, Robert McKee, Donald Maas, Ken Follett, Stephen King, and others.

B. How to build a heroic structure that fits into today's postmodern world.

Following this, we will look closely at how to build a heroic structure that fits into today's postmodern world. In order to understand these elements, it is vital for story tellers to come to grips with what makes a postmodern story. Too often, people within the faith community tend to dismiss postmodern story out of hand. What they fail to realize is, for most people under the age of thirty, the postmodern story dominates their world.

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Day Four

A. The story's spiritual content

We'll conclude with an examination of the story's spiritual content, and how this can be utilized to actually heighten the power of your craft.

B. Role research

We will look at what role research plays in creating a powerful and moving story.

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C. Creating a presentation that will sell your work.

We will conclude with an examination of how to create a presentation that will sell your work.