

Writefest

SPECULATIVE FICTION



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Cassandra Rose Clarke's first adult novel, *The Mad Scientist's Daughter*, was a finalist for the 2013 Philip K. Dick Award, and her YA novel, *The Assassin's Curse*, was nominated for YALSA's 2014 Best Fiction for Young Adults. Her short fiction has appeared in *Strange Horizons* and *Daily Science Fiction*. Her latest novel is *Our Lady of the Ice*, from Saga Press in 2015. Cassandra completed her B.A in English at The University of St. Thomas, and her master's degree in creative writing at The University of Texas at Austin. In 2010 she attended the Clarion West Writers Workshop in Seattle, where she was a recipient of the Susan C. Petrey Clarion Scholarship Fund. She currently teaches Composition and Rhetoric at Lone Star College.

WITCHES, WIZARDS, AND WORMHOLES: SPECIAL TOPICS IN SPECULATIVE FICTION

This workshop will focus on the elements that make a great science fiction and fantasy short story. Through a blend of class discussion and hands-on critique sessions, we will consider questions that are of concern to speculative fiction writers in particular, such as fully incorporating speculative elements into a story or creating a world with an internal logic that's different from our own. And on Thursday evening, students will have a chance to show off their writing at the Alumni Showcase Reading.

Each day, students will read and discuss a piece of outstanding, published speculative short fiction, with a focus on looking at different story elements that are specific to SFF: world building, writing nonhuman characters, reinventing the Golden Age wheel, and extrapolating the fantastic from the ordinary. In addition to discussing published work, students will bring in their own writing for critique. Although the amount of work we will critique per student will depend on the number of students enrolled, students should prepare around 6000 words of completed short fiction (multiple stories are okay as long as they are complete) to bring to class.

The critique aspect of the workshop will be modeled after the Clarion workshops, a forty-five-year-old training ground for aspiring writers of science fiction and fantasy. Each student will submit their work prior to the start of the workshop and will be assigned a day to have their work critiqued. All students will read and comment upon the assigned work for that day, and in class, we will examine the work in depth, going around the room so each student has a chance to offer their thoughts.

**FEBRUARY 22ND-25TH
MON-THURS 9AM-12PM
SILVER STREET STUDIOS
STUDIO # TBA
ARTIST: TBA**

BY WRITESPACE