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THTR 380.01: Playwriting

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THTR 380 Playwriting
Autumn 2013, F 1:10-3:00
Dr. Randy Bolton, randy.bolton@umontana.edu x2880
Office: W 12-2, TH 10-12 McGill 212A

Purpose/Intent/Criteria

This experience is a workshop in creative writing. We will start with dramatic writing and maybe take opportunities to expand to screen writing, poetry, and fiction. Writing is writing. You can go in your directions, but the criteria is based on dramatic structure, conflict, tension, and character complexities/psychology. These are the essentials of story. What are the characters after? What do they have to get for their life? What is most critical to them? What are they willing to do to get what they need and want? How badly do we want to know what happens next?

Texts:

Story. Robert McKee. Reagan Books, Harper Collins.
Triggering Town. Richard Hugo
Elements of Style. Strunk & White
The New Yorker magazine

Plays and other sources sought out by you

Final Product:

A 10-20 minute play and your accumulated portfolio of writing accomplished during the semester.