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THTR 580.01: Problems in Playwriting

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School of Theatre & Dance
THTR 580 Problems in Playwriting
Autumn, 2013, F 1:10-3:00
Dr. Randy Bolton, randy.bolton@umontana.edu McGill 212A x2880
Office: W 12-2, TH 10-12

Purpose/Intent/Criteria

This experience is a workshop in creative writing. We will focus on dramatic writing and take opportunities to expand to screen writing, poetry, and fiction if necessary. Writing is writing. The criteria, as always, is grounded in 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?

The goal/outcome is to write more regularly and more pages than you have before in any of our previous workshops. Of course you have current projects you are yearning to continue and complete, but we want to write even more.

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:

Three completed pieces.