



**Instructor:** Bruce Barton

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**Course Number:** DRE362H5S

**Course Title:** Playwriting

**Course description:** This course is intended to introduce students to a broad range of issues and methods related to the process of playwriting. Through a series of historical/theoretical readings and a variety of practical exercises, students will be encouraged to explore the unique properties of the theatrical environment, with a particular focus on the advanced technologies available in the CCT performance space. Topics for investigation will include general issues (such as structure, language, characterization, metaphor and symbolism, etc.) as well as issues specific to the theatrical context (such as theatrical time and space, movement, engagement with an audience, relationship to other theatrical elements, etc.), and others unique to the CCT space (advanced technologies including projection, video, internet, etc.). Students will also be introduced to physically based and collective strategies of theatrical devising as expanded forms of playmaking. Students will be encouraged to seek out the most productive methods of composing (physically, structurally, intellectually, and imaginatively) for their own practice. The benefit of community – amongst writers, and between writers and other theatre practitioners – will be emphasized through a ‘workshop’ class structure and course assignment design.

Note: Enrolment in the 2011 section of this course requires the submission of a creative writing portfolio by October 15, 2012. Contact the instructor for details (bruce.barton@utoronto.ca).

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**Required Reading:** selected readings will be posted to Blackboard (copyright permitting) or placed On Reserve at the UTM library.

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied (selections from):**

Ayckbourn, Alan. *The Crafty Art of Playmaking*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2002.

Spenser, Stuart. *The Playwright's Guidebook*. Faber and Faber, 2002.

Wright, Michael. *Playwriting in Process: Thinking and Writing Theatrically*. 2nd ed. Newburyport, MA: Focus Pub./R. Pullins Co., 2009.

**Method of Instruction:** lecture, discussion, and practical in-class exercises

**Method of Evaluation:** participation and in-class exercises; on-line dramaturgy; weekly out-of-class exercises; final project and class presentation.