

- What might several “non-religious” events or activities have in common with religion?
- Is compassion “religious”?

1

**When the music stops,
the class begins.**

2

**Please get ready for the
class to start.**

3

Thanks!

4

Here we go!

5

RLGI01H

Introduction to the Study of Religion

6

I. Introduction

7





9

Welcome!

- First year at university?
- New to Mississauga/GTA?
- New to Canada?
- New to North America?

10

Welcome!

- Many challenges!
 - ➔ Exciting?
 - ➔ Scary?
 - ➔ Find your path / voice
 - ➔ Activities, friends, family, solitude, etc.
 - ➔ Learning vs grades

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Welcome!

- Problems: academic, personal, medical, etc.
- Ask for help!!!
- UTM recourses on website (under “Help”)
 - ➔ Student Services
 - ➔ Writing Support
 - ➔ Academic Assistance

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Today

- “Non-religious” events, activities, etc.
- Study Abroad
- Hearts + Minds Living Library
- Course Info
 - ➔ Lectures, instructor, texts, etc.
 - ➔ Philosophy
 - ➔ Grading

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Today

- By the end of this class you should be able to:
 - ➔ Describe what this course is about
 - ➔ Take notes more effectively
 - ➔ Identify “religious” qualities of some “non-religious” events, activities, etc.
 - ➔ Begin to question your own definition of “religion”

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Lectures

- Note-taker
- During class:
 - ➔ Participation! Questions!
 - ➔ No laptops (if concerned: speak to me)
 - ➔ How to take notes
 - ➔ Slide #s

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Lectures

- 5:05pm: questions, song
- Lecture begins 5:10pm
- Break at about 6pm (5 min)
- Lecture content ≠ readings

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- What might several “non-religious” events or activities have in common with religion?
- Is compassion “religious”?

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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM?



18

Ecuador



Hong
Kong





UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Centre for International Experience



UNIVERSITY
of TORONTO
summer
abroad



IEC
UofT
MISSISSAUGA

More Information

- **UTM International Education Centre**

Davis Building 2071

905-569-4716

international.utm@utoronto.ca

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/international/>

- **Me!**

Dept of Historical Studies

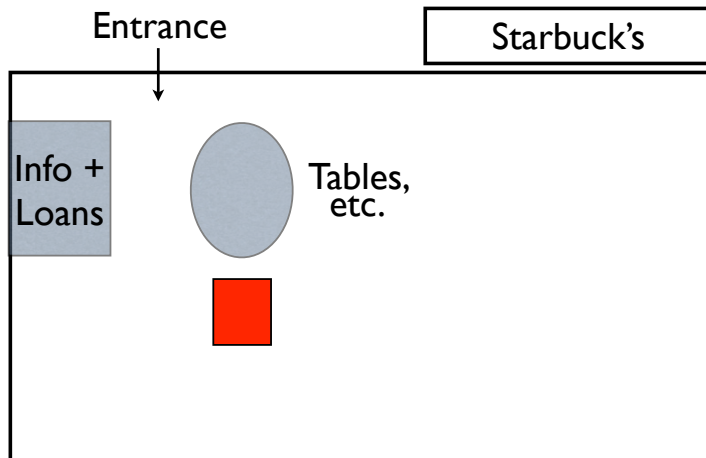
ken.derry@utoronto.ca



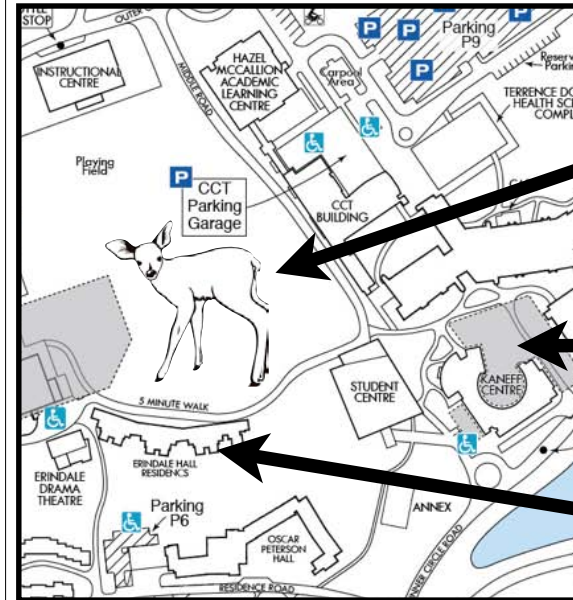
Instructor

- Dr. Ken Derry
- Office: Erindale Hall (ER) 208B
- Email: ken.derry@utoronto.ca (or through Bb)
- Office Hours:
 - Tuesdays 2:30-4pm: UTM library
 - Thursdays 11am-12:30pm: ER208B
- ➔ First-come, first served
(appointments are not during office hours)

Library Office Hours



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Instructor

- UofT grad
- B.A.: Biophysics, Religion, Japanese, English Literature
- M.A./Ph.D./current: religion and violence, religion and culture, Indigenous religions
- Study abroad
- At UTM since fall 2010
- Cats!

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Instructors

- Human
 - ➔ Introverted
 - ➔ Anxieties
- Care about your education



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Instructors

- What to call them?
- Professor may tell you
 - ➔ “Ken” or “Prof. Derry” or “Dr. Derry”
- If not: default = formal
 - ➔ “Professor Smith” or “Dr. Smith”
 - ➔ NOT “Hey!”
 - ➔ NOT Mr./Ms/Mrs./Miss

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Austin Powers (1997)



I didn't spend six years in evil medical school to be called "Mister," thank you very much.

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Introductions!

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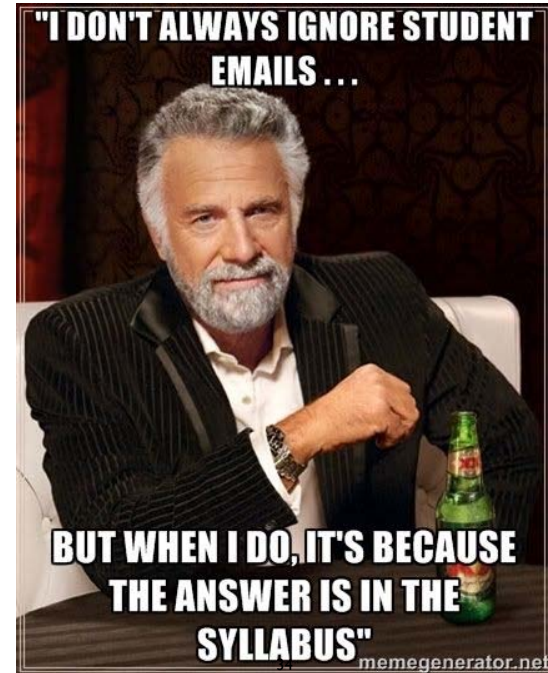
And . . . we're back!

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Course Syllabus

Please read it!

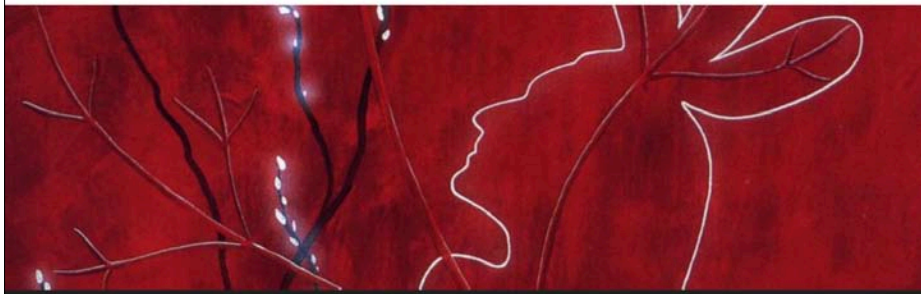
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RLG101H Introduction to the Study of Religion

Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga

Search



About RLG101H Course Texts Grading Rights + Responsibilities Help Contact Announcements

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About RLG101H Course Texts Grading Rights + Responsibilities H

Indigenous History and Land Acknowledgement

Instructor + TAs

Course Description

What is "Religion"?

Philosophy + Learning Objectives

Course Resources

Schedule

out RLG101H

section of the website you will find general but imp
1H, including the course description, philosophy,
quired texts.

W

Schedule

Here are the topics, main readings, and writing assignment deadlines for the term. Please note that most weeks, in addition to the texts listed here, there will be at least one additional required reading posted on the course website.

Dates	Topics	Main Readings	Writing Assignments
Sept 5	Introduction	Course Syllabus	
Sept 12	Belief	Nye, Chapter 5 <i>The Lion King</i> (film) [Sept 12: tutorials begin]	
Sept 19	Ritual	Nye, Chapter 6	
Sept 26	Writing analysis	Various (posted on the course website)	Film analysis part 1 due Sept 29
Oct 3	"Texts"	Nye, Chapter 7	
Oct 17	Culture	Nye, Chapter 2	Final film analysis due Oct 20

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About the Course

- STUDY of religion
 - ➔ Theories, concepts, methods
 - ➔ Focus on people, not god(s)
 - ➔ Study of religion is study of what people do

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About the Course

- Examples:
 - ➔ Various religions
 - ➔ My training:
Indigenous traditions, Christianity
 - ➔ Contemporary culture:
songs, news, movies, TV, *The Lion King*

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WARNING!
Some content
may offend or
upset.

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THE RELIGION OF
WHITE SUPREMACY IN
THE UNITED STATES



ERIC A. WEED

About the Course

1. **Information** about particular ideas/theories
 - ➔ Objective facts
 - ➔ Correct and incorrect understanding
2. **Tools** that you can apply to new data
 - ➔ Subjective analysis (using ideas/theories)
 - ➔ Evidence and argument

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About the Course

- Focus on writing:
 - ➔ Analysis, argument, expression
 - ➔ Writing assignments (film + field research analyses)
 - ➔ Tutorial homework
 - ➔ Importance of **reading**

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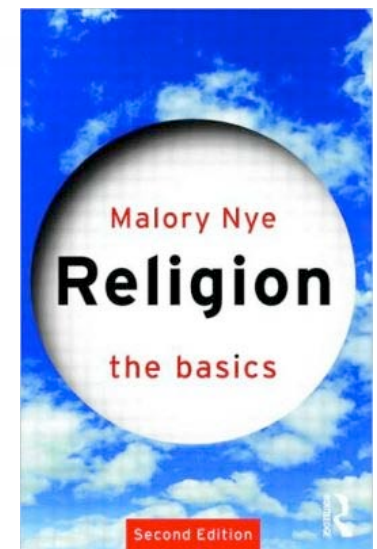
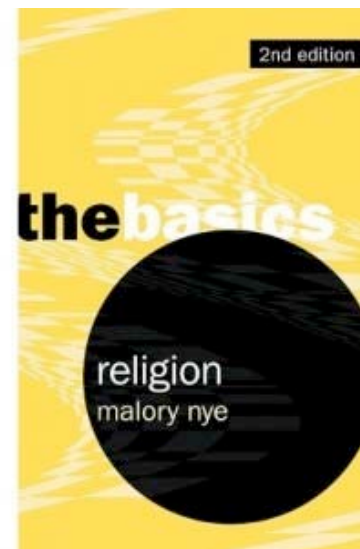
Required Texts

1. Nye, *Religion: The Basics*, 2nd edition
2. Weekly readings on RLG101H website (under “Course Texts”)
3. *The Lion King*

For next week:

- Nye, chapter 5 (Belief)
- Derry, “The Afterlife”
- *The Lion King*

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Malory Nye



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“Contact”

- Comment or simple question: **email**
 - ➔ Email etiquette
 - ➔ Expect reply in 2 business days
- “Content” question: **in person**
 - ➔ Office hours / after class / bus stop / appointment
- Anonymous feedback

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Respect

- Website: “Equity + Diversity” + “Course Manifesto” (under “Rights + Responsibilities”)
- Opinion / dissent
- Inclusive
- **No tolerance** for discrimination, harassment, or hate speech

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Expectations

- What do you expect from your fellow students?
- What do you expect from your teachers?
- What should I expect from you?

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Song!

- “Good as Hell” by Lizzo (2016)



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Come now, come dry your eyes
You know you a star, you can touch the sky
I know that it's hard but you have to try
If you need advice, let me simplify

If he don't love you anymore
Just walk your fine ass out the door

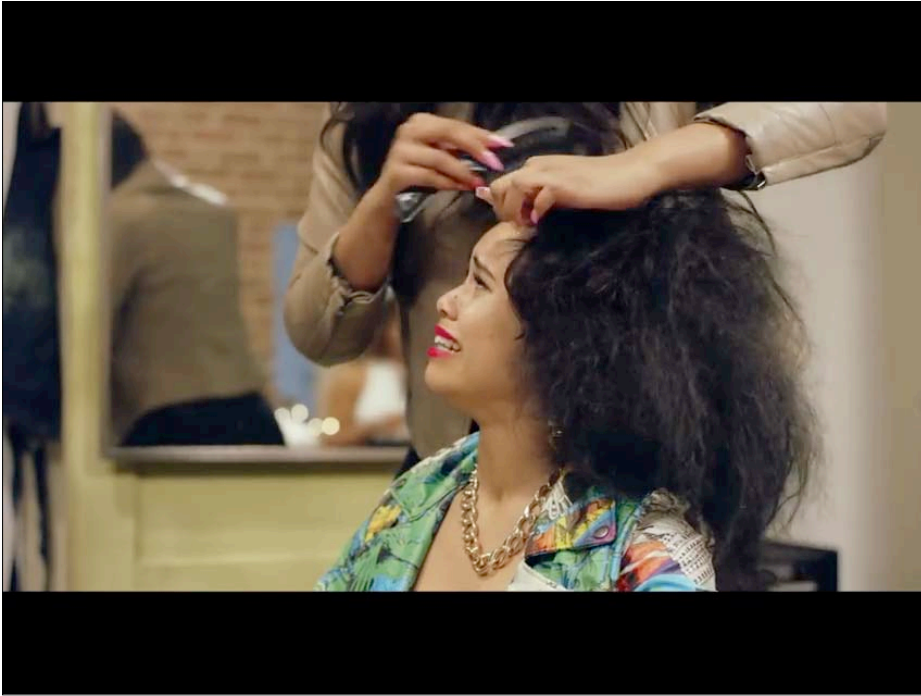
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Boss up and change your life
You can have it all, no sacrifice
I know he did you wrong, we can make it right
So go and let it all hang out tonight

I do my hair toss
Check my nails
Baby how you feelin'?
Feeling good as hell

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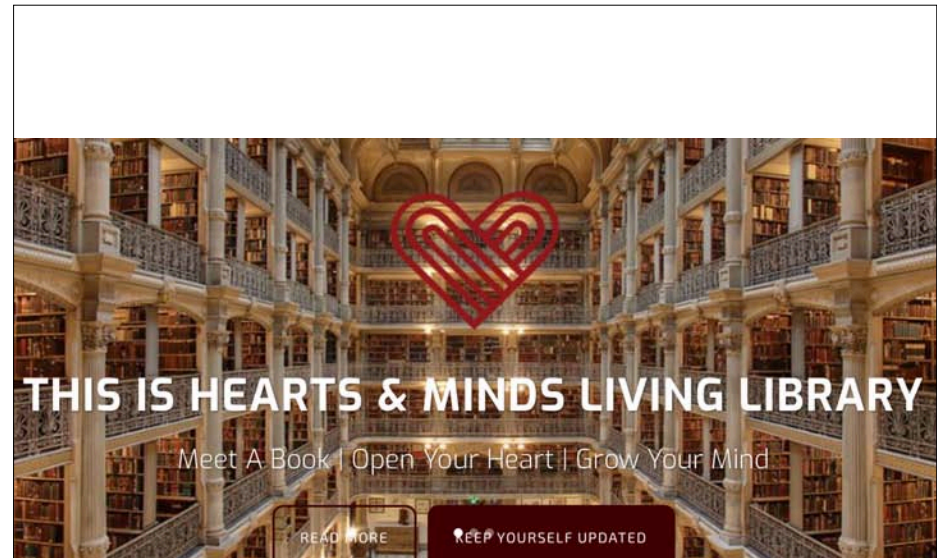


Is compassion “religious”?

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- If a person who belongs to a religion is NOT compassionate, is that person a hypocrite?
- If a non-religious person IS compassionate, is that person actually religious?

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Hearts & Minds
Living Library (H&MLL)

- Focus on compassion
- Justice, faith, equity
- One-on-one conversations
- “Books” are people who have suffered discrimination + oppression and/or are working to help others who have suffered

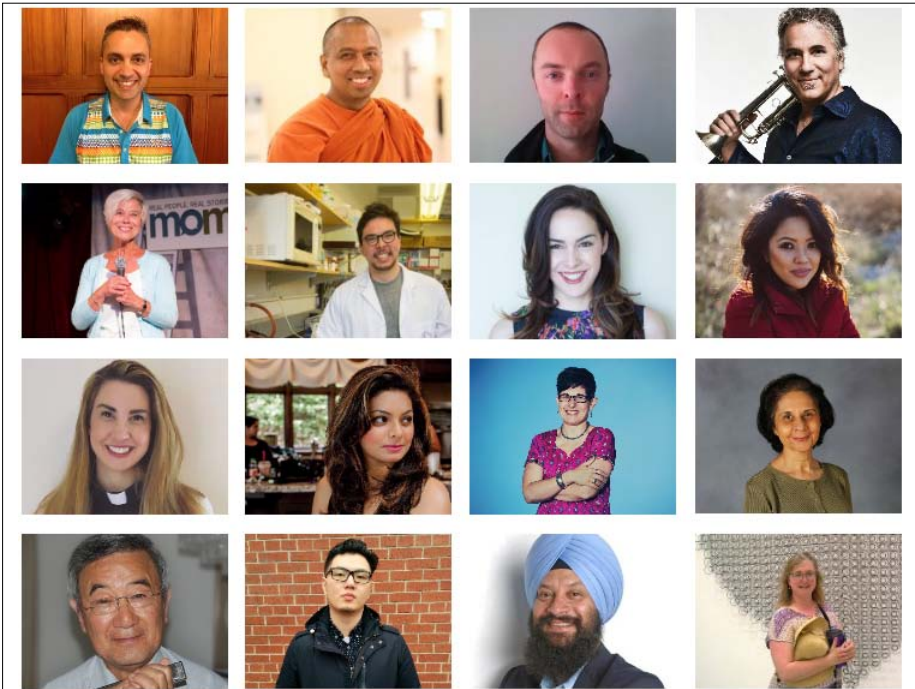
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Hearts & Minds
Living Library (H&MLL)

- Saturday, September 9, 10am-4pm
- Toronto City Hall
- Shuttle from UTM to STG campus
➔ Free for UTM students!

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BEST SELLERS FOR THE FIRESIDE READING SESSIONS

MODERATED
BY WRITER,
PROFESSOR
& SCHOLAR
DR. KEN DERRY

11-3:30 PM
MEMBERS'
LOUNGE



Canada's First Compassion Standup Comedy Show!



Grading

- Based on performance
 - ➔ No bell curve
 - ➔ No specific class average
- My academic expectations
 - ➔ Detailed instructions
 - ➔ Grading rubrics

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Grading

1. Course participation (15%)
2. Film analysis (5% + 15%)
3. Field research analysis (10% +20%)
4. Final exam (35%)

67

Grading

1. Course participation (15%)
2. Film analysis (5% + 15%)
3. Field research analysis (10% +20%)
4. Final exam (35%)

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Field Research (30%)

- Attend religious ritual that you are NOT familiar with
- Groups of 2 or 3 students (from tutorial)
 - ➔ Visit site together and share observations (NOT a group project)
- Start thinking soon about who is in your group and where you want to go
- Contract due **October 27**

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Course Participation (15%)

Marked out of 30:

1. Online discussion comments (6 marks)
2. Tutorial attendance (10 marks)
3. Tutorial reading reflections (10 marks)
4. Tutorial homework (10 marks)
5. Reflections on UTM film festival (4 marks)
6. PELS workshops (8 marks)

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Online Comments

- Maximum 6 marks (one mark / comment)
- Blackboard forum (your TA's groups); will be set up later this week
- Due dates on website (first: **Sept 19**)
- **125 words** related to **course content**
 - ➔ Be specific (not: "I liked chapter 5!")
- Content not graded
 - ➔ Be yourself! (Unless you are a jerk)

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Tutorial Attendance

- Maximum 10 marks
- Enrol through ACORN (right away!)
- Tutorials are run by TAs
- Discuss course readings and ideas
- Work on skills (writing and analysis)

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Reading Reflections

- Maximum 10 marks
- During tutorial, write down your thoughts about that week's readings (in answer to a question)
- Question for next week on chapter 5 (Belief): What idea about "belief" did you find interesting, and why?

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Tutorial Homework

- Maximum 10 marks
- Marked only for completion
 - ➔ Write or print for submission to TA at **start** of tutorial
 - ➔ Include your name and student number
- Next week's homework: Briefly describe a **story** that is important to you, and why.

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PELS Workshops

- Maximum 8 marks
- Tuesdays 4-5pm in IB379 starting Sept 12
- English language and academic skills related to spoken and written English
- Everyone is welcome!

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The End!

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