

- What is the difference between reductionist and non-reductionist theories of religion?
- How does Nye define “ritual”? How can the same action be a ritual sometimes but not others?

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UTM WELLNESS AMBASSADORS



- ▶ Walk-in Clinic on campus
- ▶ Davis Building 1st floor
- ▶ Open to all UofT students
- ▶ Doctors
- ▶ Nurses
- ▶ Counselors
- ▶ Nutritionist
- ▶ Flu Shots
- ▶ Medications and Vaccination

DRINKING * CAVE EXPLORATION * ARCHERY * BARBECUE * NEW FRIENDS * AUTUMN

**MoveU
Tri-Campus
Farm Trip**


moveu.ca



Saturday, September 23
Hart House Farm, Caledon ON

Buses depart UTM at 2pm & return at 8pm
\$20 - UofT students from all campuses
Register in-person at RAWC Membership Services
Space is limited. Register by Wed, Sept 20.

LAUGH * TRY SOMETHING NEW * FIRE BIT * RELAX * ARCHERY * FUN * CL&door.s

**Meet-A-Friend
Café**

**Thurs, Sept 28, 11am-3pm
Student Centre Presentation Room**

Meet new people. Play board games. Build community at UTM.

Free coffee, tea,
cookies, & more!
Drop-in, casual
atmosphere & music!

**MoveU
Motivator**

**Sept 29, 2-5pm
RAWC Gym**

Come and try out different ways to get physically active with 3 x 20-minute instructional classes!

Free admission
Win prizes & giveaways
Bring your gym clothes, shoes, & T-Card

Guest speaker: Prof. Scott Prasser

Activities include:
+Volleyball +Basketball +Zumba +Badminton
+Pilates +Chair Yoga +Paint Darts



3. Ritual

Today

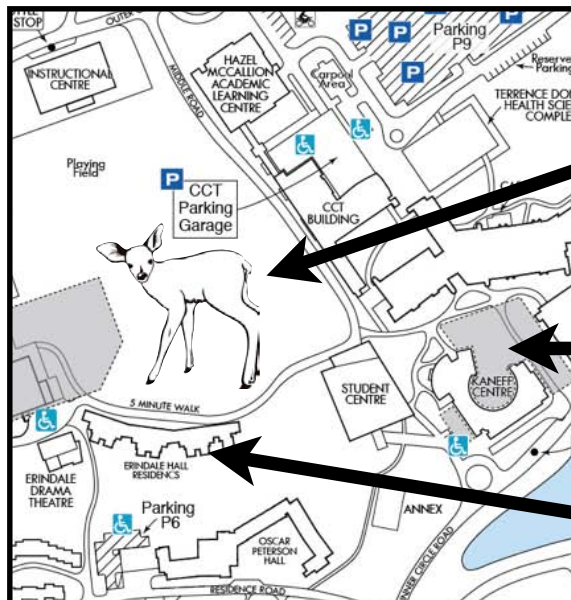
- Announcements
- Finish: Belief
- Start: Ritual
 - ➔ Rites of passage
 - ➔ What is ritual?
 - ➔ Ritual studies

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Announcements

- Welcome, new people!
 - ➔ Read syllabus and announcements; no laptops; make friends!
- Tonight: discussion board comment is due
- Textbook in bookstore?

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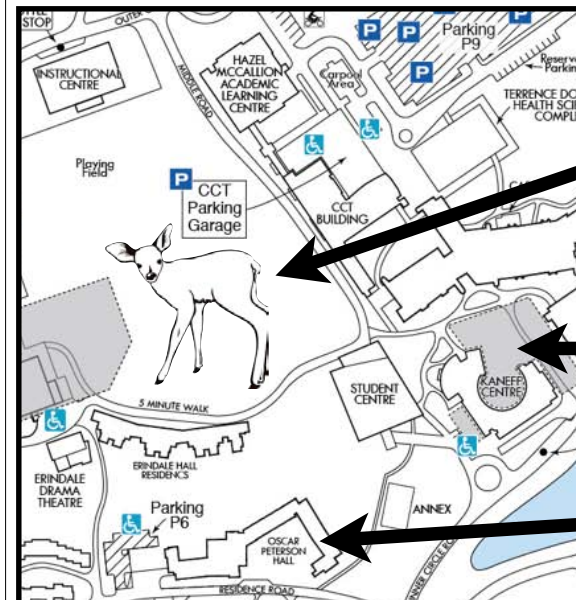


Deer
(not to scale)

RLG101

Erindale Hall

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Deer
(not to scale)

RLG101

OPH

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Theories of Religion

- Scholars study religion from the “outside”
 - ➔ Theories about what religious beliefs, practices, texts, etc. **mean**
 - ➔ Often different from understanding of religious people themselves
- You do not need to agree with any theories
 - ➔ Just need to **understand** them
 - ➔ Like studying history, politics, economics, etc.

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Belief: Last Week

1. Problems with thinking that all religions are primarily about belief
2. History of emphasis on belief when thinking about religion
3. Theories of belief
 - ➔ Cognitive vs. affective beliefs
 - ➔ Habitus

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Belief: Last Week

1. Problems with thinking that all religions are primarily about belief
 - ➔ Language issues
 - ➔ Sometimes belief is not (that) important

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Belief: Last Week

2. History of emphasis on belief when thinking about religion
 - ➔ Martin Luther: protest against Catholic Church practices
 - ➔ Development of Protestant Christianity
 - ➔ Emphasize “faith” over “works”
 - ➔ Many religion scholars come from Protestant cultures

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Belief: Questions

- Why have religion scholars tended to focus on belief? Why is this a problem?
- Use one theory belief to show how *The Lion King* promotes a particular message
 - ➔ Can repeat what we did in class; OR
 - ➔ Can pick different theory (from Nye) and do your OWN analysis
 - ➔ Show (correct) understanding of theory and use reasonable evidence from film

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Theories of Belief

- Cognitive vs. affective beliefs (p. 117)
- Habitus (p. 125-6)
- Reductionist theories (p. 108-9)
- Non-reductionist theories (p. 111-5)
- Belief and common sense (p. 119-123)
- Cognitive approaches (p. 109-11)

Ignore!

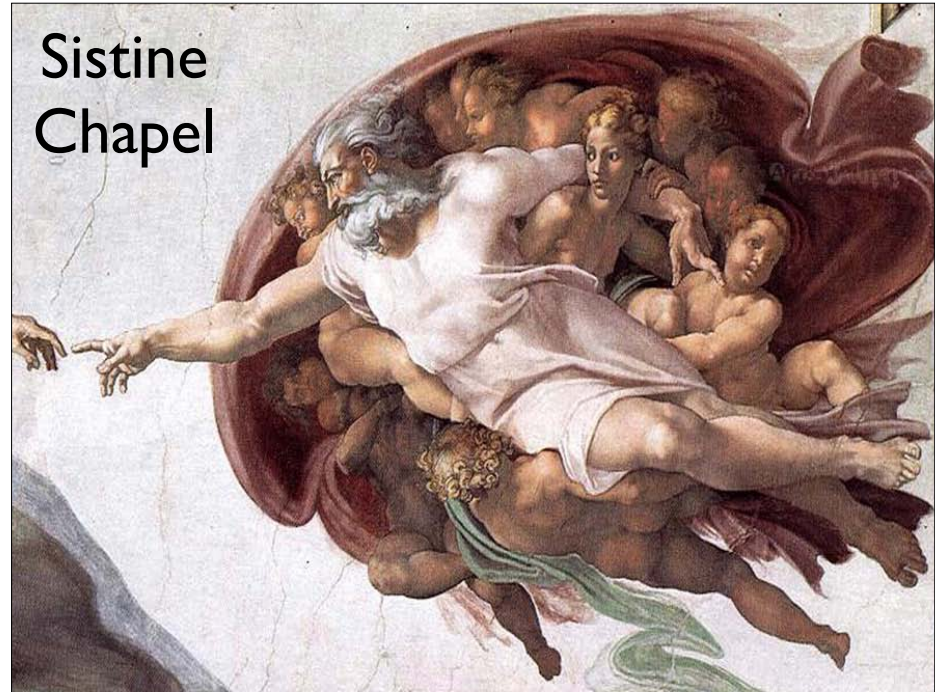
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Reductionist

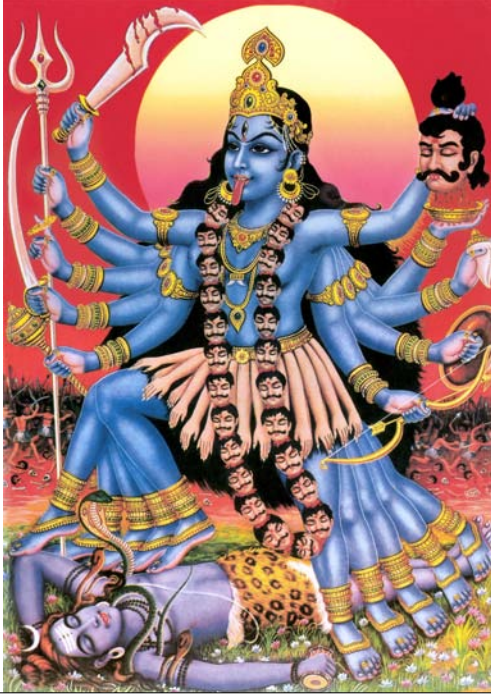
- Religion is “really” about something else (of THIS world)
- Often this is a critique of religion
 - ➔ Beliefs are false/meaningless
- Other (more positive) perspectives
 - ➔ Birthday candles
 - ➔ Afterlife stories
 - ➔ Other examples?

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Sistine Chapel



Kali



Reductionist

- “humans make up images of god for human purposes”
 - ➔ What is Simba’s purpose?
 - ➔ Relationship with his father
 - ➔ Internal struggle: should he go back and help?

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Reductionist

- Possible messages:
 - ➔ Belief in the supernatural can allow us to deal with feelings of loss
 - ➔ Belief in the supernatural can help us sort through difficult problems we are having

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Non-Reductionist

- Assume beliefs point to reality or “essence”
- Different religions = different perceptions
 - ➔ Blind men and the elephant
- Hick (“the Real”), Eliade (“the Sacred”)
- *The Lion King*: Mufasa really does live in the sky
- Critiques: Gill, McCutcheon, Wiebe

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Non-Reductionist

- “This uniqueness is what is referred to as the ‘*sui generis*’ approach, that religion is a distinct element of human activity, that can be explained in solely human terms.” (p. 114)
- Error in quote: “can be explained” should be “**can’t** be explained”

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Russell McCutcheon



Donald Wiebe

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Cognitive Approaches

- Study of the brain
- Luther Martin ≠ Martin Luther!
- Non-reductionist (Whitehouse)
- Reductionist (Guthrie, Boyer)

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perception

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pareidolia



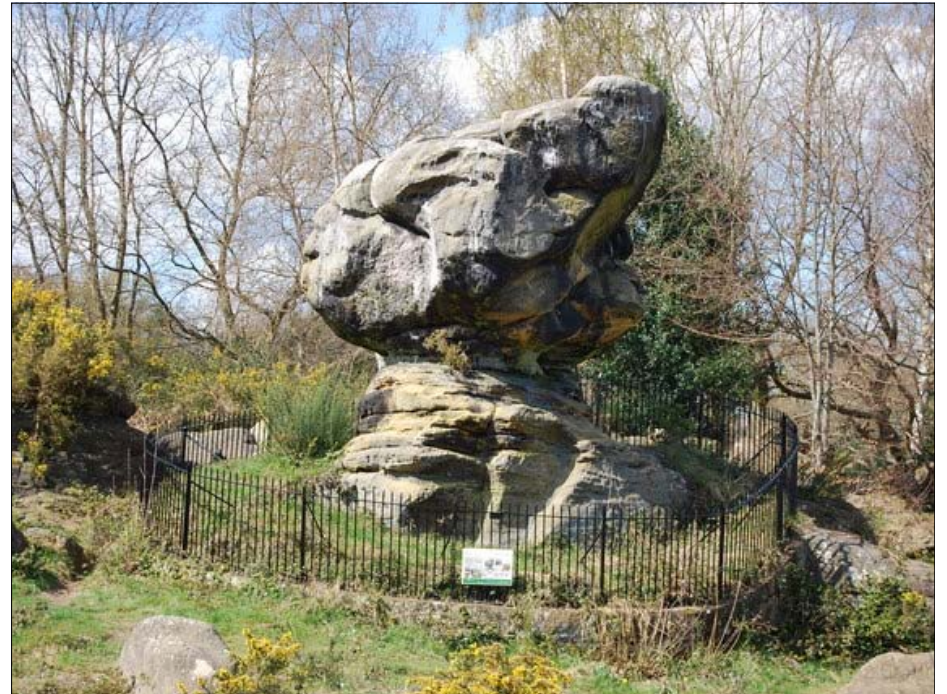
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The excitement continues!

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Anonymous Feedback

- End class at 6:54?
- Likes class
 - ➔ Thanks!
- Universities: liberal bias
 - ➔ Wants neutrality / compassion for diverse perspectives



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Anonymous Feedback

- Criticized Christianity
- Tutorial requirements unclear
 - ➔ What is due when?
 - ➔ Homework + reflections
- Recording lectures?



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Tutorials

- Texts:
 - ➔ On website:
Course Texts > **Readings on Writing**
- Reflection (written during tutorial):
 - ➔ Read “Unbiased Language”
 - ➔ Why do you think it might be important to use **unbiased** language? Use a specific example of **biased** language to illustrate your point.

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Tutorials

- Homework (prepared before tutorial):
 - ➔ Revise rites of passage film essay paragraph: include citations and bibliography
 - ➔ Use Chicago Manual of Style (**author-date** format)
 - ➔ Instructions and examples included in “Readings on Writing”

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Film Analysis Paragraph

- Submit your “rites of passage” film analysis paragraph to Bb and turnitin.com before 11:59pm on **Sept. 29**
- Instructions on Bb (“Film Analysis”)
 - ➔ Submission to Bb and turnitin.com
 - ➔ Writing advice + sample paragraphs
 - ➔ Grading rubric

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Film Analysis Paragraph

- Help!
 - ➔ TA office hours next Tuesday 3-5pm
 - ➔ My office hours
 - ➔ Appointment with me
 - ➔ RGASC

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Ritual!

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Ritual

1. Rites of passage
2. What is “ritual”?
3. Theories of ritual
 - ➔ Potentially useful for film analysis

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I. Rites of Passage

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Rites of Passage

- Examples?
- Indigenous rites of passage:
 - ➔ Pondo healers
 - ➔ Anishinaubae vision quest
 - ➔ Wiradjuri boys

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Arnold van Gennep

- Rituals and transformation
 - ➔ Space, time, social relations, etc.
 - ➔ Boundaries
 - ➔ Rites of passage



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Arnold van Gennep

- Rite of passage = literal / symbolic **journey**
 1. Separation
 - ➔ Death of old self; leave home
 2. Liminality
 - ➔ “Threshold” or barrier; anti-structure
 3. Incorporation
 - ➔ Birth of new self; go home (new/old); physical change?

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Film Analysis

- Look at overall character development using “rites of passage”:
 - ➔ Starting point / original home
 - ➔ Separation
 - ➔ Liminality
 - ➔ Incorporation / (new) home

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Star Wars - A New Hope www.desktopextreme.com



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Today's Song

- "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" (1994) by Simba, Nala, and Zazu



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I'm gonna be the mane event
 Like no king was before
 I'm brushing up on looking down
 I'm working on my ROAR

No one saying do this
 No one saying be there
 No one saying stop that
 No one saying see here
 Free to run around all day
 Free to do it all my way!

55

Separation



Threshold!

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Symbolic Death



57

Liminality



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Incorporation



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The Lion King

- Message of rite of passage:
 - ➔ What does Simba learn?
 - ➔ How does he change?
 - ➔ What is different about him at the beginning of the film compared to the end?

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When I was a child, I spoke as a child,
I understood as a child, I thought as a child;
But when I became a man,
I put childish things away.

- 1 Corinthians 13:11



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?"

JOHN CHO KAL PENN
HAROLD & KUMAR
GO TO
White Castle

Fast Food. High Times.

