

- What does the word “belief” mean?
- How might the theory of affective and cognitive belief be used to find a message in *The Lion King*?

**wr:** wouldrather... Quit, Cut Back, or Stay Smoke-Free?



BACK FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!

**\$10,000**  
IN CASH PRIZES TO BE WON!

18-29 years old? Enter the contest online by January 28, 2018 @ [wouldrather.ca](http://wouldrather.ca)

LEAVE THE PACK BEHIND SINCE 2009

FREE

HABITROL THRIVE Prize support provided by the makers of Thrive® and Habitrol®

f  
i

## Rules

- Students must stay **smoke-free** between **January 29th, 2018 – March 11th, 2018**.
- Contest registration closes **January 28th, 2018**.



## QUIT<sub>FOR</sub>GOOD

Quit smoking completely and you could win \$2,500

## KEEP<sub>THE</sub>COUNT

Cut back your smoking by 50% and you could win \$1,000

## PARTY<sub>WITHOUT</sub>THE<sub>SMOKE</sub>

Cut out smoking when drinking/partying and you could win \$500

## DON'T<sub>START</sub>AND<sub>WIN</sub>

Stay smoke-free and you could win \$250



Sign up at  
[www.wouldrather.ca!](http://www.wouldrather.ca!)



## 2. Belief

6

I believe in Jesus.



7

## Announcements

- Note-takers (see announcement on Jan. 9)
- New people?
  - ➔ Welcome!
  - ➔ Make friends, read announcements and syllabus, find out what you missed
  - ➔ Laptops
- RLG101H: introduce you to study of religion
  - ➔ AND to university!

8

1 tweet

 **Rican Johnny**  
@\_jungleboii18\_ 

College be like

You: Hey professor how you doing today?  
Professor: It's on the syllabus

1:36 PM · 08 Sep 15



10

## Malory Nye



11

## Reading Nye

- What to “get” from Nye?
- Key ideas (big picture)
  - ➔ Questions at end of each chapter
- Understand **some** theories
  - ➔ Be able to **apply** them to data
  - ➔ Importance of theorists’ **names**

12

# Reading Nye

- Read **before** tutorial and **after** lecture
  - ➔ Your understanding first, THEN ours
  - ➔ Will help you learn to read difficult material
- Lectures not identical to readings
  - ➔ Too much material in text to cover
  - ➔ Humanities: *conversations* with texts

13

# Field Research Contract

- Visit religious site with one or two other students from your tutorial
  - ➔ Must be site no one is familiar with
  - ➔ No one in group can belong to that religion
  - ➔ Contract on Blackboard
  - ➔ Due **February 9** (worth 2%)

14

# Anonymous Feedback

- Nice note
  - ➔ Thanks!



15

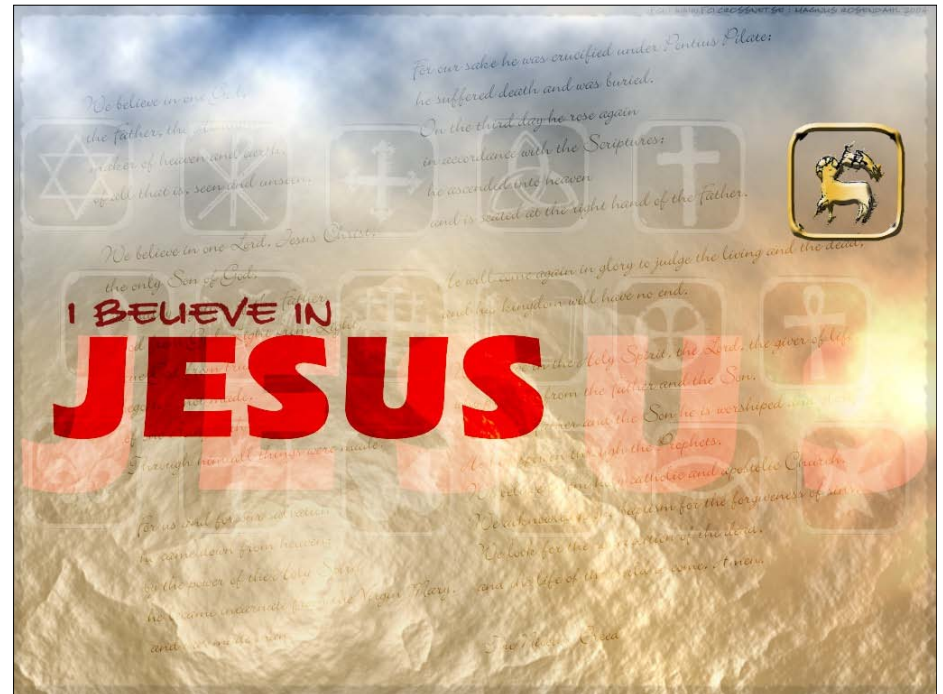
# Today

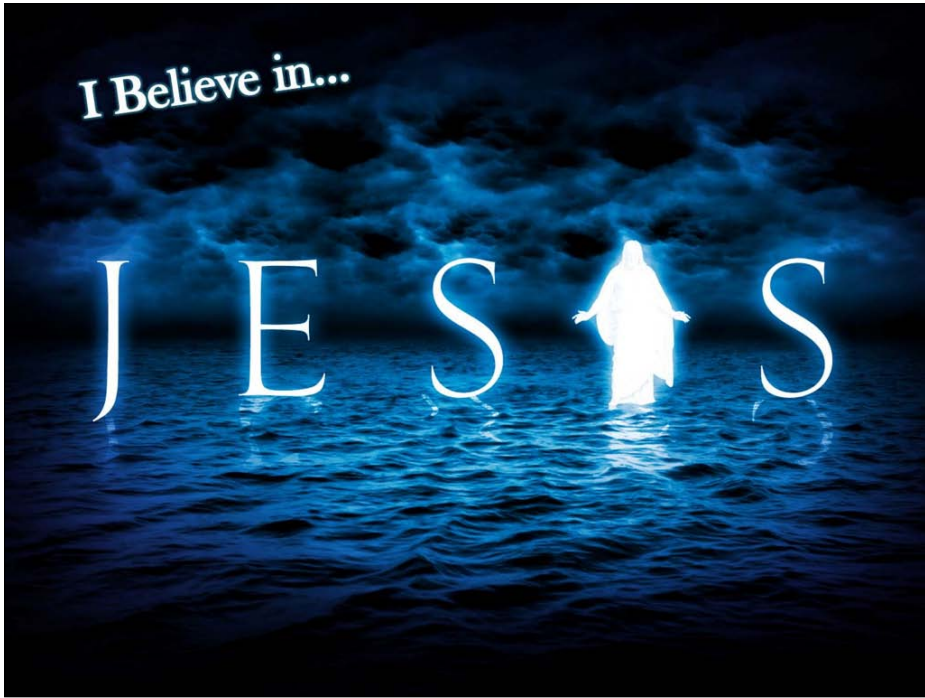
1. Meaning of “belief”?
2. Film analysis assignments
3. Theories of belief (+ *Lion King!*)
4. Belief + the study of religion

16

# I. Meaning of “Belief”

# I believe in Jesus.





“Let me just go ahead and get that from ya.”



25

“I believe you have my stapler.”



26



27







## “Belief”

- “I believe you have my stapler.”
- “I believe in Jesus.”
- “I believe in Big Foot.”
- “I believe in taking walks in the forest.”
- “I believe in the literal meaning of the Bible.”

33

“I am the gate for  
the sheep.”

– Jesus (in John 10:7)

34

## Song

- “Don’t Stop Believin’” by Journey (1981)



“Don’t Stop Believin’”

Just a small town girl  
Livin’ in a lonely world  
She took the midnight train  
Goin’ anywhere

Just a city boy  
Born and raised in South Detroit  
He took the midnight train  
Goin’ anywhere

# “Don’t Stop Believin’”

Strangers waiting  
Up and down the boulevard  
Their shadows searching  
In the night

Don’t stop believin’  
Hold on to that feeling  
Streetlight people  
Don’t stop believin’  
Hold on

# “Belief”

- “Belief” in English has different meanings
  - ➔ **Think** something is true / real
  - ➔ **Know** something is true / real
  - ➔ Regard something as **meaningful** or **important**
  - ➔ **Trust** in someone / yourself / god(s)
  - ➔ **Hope** for a good outcome

38

## 2. Film Analysis

39

## Film Analysis

- Film lists on course website
- Each TA has different film list!
  - ➔ Must choose list from *your* TA
  - ➔ Pick (and watch) your film by next week
- Paragraph due **January 26**
  - ➔ Next week: TA office hours Tues. + Wed.
- Final film analysis due **February 16**

40

# Film Analysis

- 4 paragraphs in total:
  1. Use 3 theories of religion to analyze “non-religious” film (3 paragraphs)
    - ➔ Use theories of **belief + ritual + text** (Nye: chapters 5, 6, 7)
  2. **Reflect** on what you learned by doing this analysis (1 paragraph)

41

# Film Analysis

- 4 paragraphs in total:
  1. Belief
  2. Ritual
  3. Text
  4. Reflection

42

# Film Analysis

- Theory:
  - ➔ An idea intended to understand data
  - ➔ Nye’s text: facts + theories
  - ➔ Not all theories helpful for interpreting films
  - ➔ Question: what is the film trying to teach us?
  - ➔ Will provide you with lists of theories from each chapter to choose from

43

# Film Paragraph

- Instructions on Bb (under “Film Analysis”)
- Write a paragraph analyzing a film from your TA’s list using one theory of **belief**
  - ➔ Include citations and bibliography (Chicago Manual of Style)
  - ➔ Will post document on Bb with **advice** and **example paragraph**

44

# Tutorials

- Homework:
  - ➔ Write a paragraph analyzing a film from your TA's list using one of the approved theories of belief (see instructions on Bb)
  - ➔ Identify a message: what is the film trying to teach us?
  - ➔ Include citations and bibliography

45

# Tutorials

- Homework:
  - ➔ Write a paragraph analyzing a film from your TA's list using one of the approved theories of belief (see instructions on Bb)
  - ➔ Identify a message: what is the film trying to teach us?
  - ➔ Include citations and bibliography
  - ➔ Bring **two copies**

46

## 3. Theories of Belief

47

## 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)

48

# 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)

49



51



52

# Cognitive vs. Affective

- Richard Gombrich
  - ➔ Cognitive: what we say/think we believe
  - ➔ Affective: what our actions indicate we believe
  - ➔ What is the **cognitive** belief of Timon and Pumbaa (and Simba)?
  - ➔ What is the **affective** belief of Timon and Pumbaa (and Simba)?

53

“hakuna matata!”



no worries, no responsibilities

54



“we’re with you to the end”

55



“we’re with you to the end”

56

# Cognitive vs. Affective

- Analysis of *Lion King*:
  - ➔ Timon, Pumbaa, and Simba say that they believe in “Hakuna Matata”
  - ➔ Initially their behaviour also shows they believe in “Hakuna Matata”
  - ➔ However when loved ones are in trouble their actions show that they DO believe they have responsibilities

57

# Cognitive vs. Affective

- Possible message:
  - ➔ Having “no worries” can help us deal with bad experiences
  - ➔ However in some situations we do need to live up to our responsibilities

58

# Habitus

- Pierre Bourdieu and Catherine Bell
- Cultural context of people’s lives
  1. Impact on our beliefs
    - ➔ (Note: individual choice/agency)

59

# Habitus

- Pierre Bourdieu and Catherine Bell
- Cultural context of people’s lives
  2. How specific beliefs are viewed/practiced
    - ➔ (e.g., belief in “sanctity of life”)

60

# Habitus

- Analysis of *Lion King*:
  - ➔ Impact of cultural context on Simba's beliefs?
  - ➔ Simba is exposed to two cultures that teach two different belief systems
  - ➔ Responsibility ("circle of life") vs "hakuna matata"
  - ➔ What is the film trying to tell us?

61

# Habitus

- Possible message:
  - ➔ It is better to live up to our responsibilities than to ignore problems

62

# Reductionist

- Religion is "really" about something else (of THIS world)
- Usually a critique of religion
  - ➔ Beliefs are false/meaningless
- Other (more positive) perspectives
  - ➔ Afterlife stories (this week's reading)

63

# Reductionist

- "humans make up images of god for human purposes"
  - ➔ Xenophanes: horse gods look like horses
  - ➔ Feuerbach: God is a projection
  - ➔ Freud: father → God (comfort + protect)
  - ➔ *The Lion King*?

64



“he lives in you”



“Father?”

“remember who you are”



“the one true king”

## 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 home and help?

## Reductionist

- Possible messages:
  - ➔ Belief in the supernatural can allow us to deal with feelings of loss
  - ➔ We should live up to our responsibilities

# Reductionist

- Religion is “really” about something else (of THIS world)
- “humans make up images of god for human purposes”
- Most films for RLG101H assignment will not have supernatural elements
- Possible to apply reductionist theory to other abstract concepts

69

# Reductionist

- Abstract concepts:
  - ➔ Love, honour, tradition
  - ➔ Often helpful to look at concepts used as reasons for doing something
- *Lion King?*
  - ➔ “circle of life”
  - ➔ “hakuna matata”

70

# Non-Reductionist

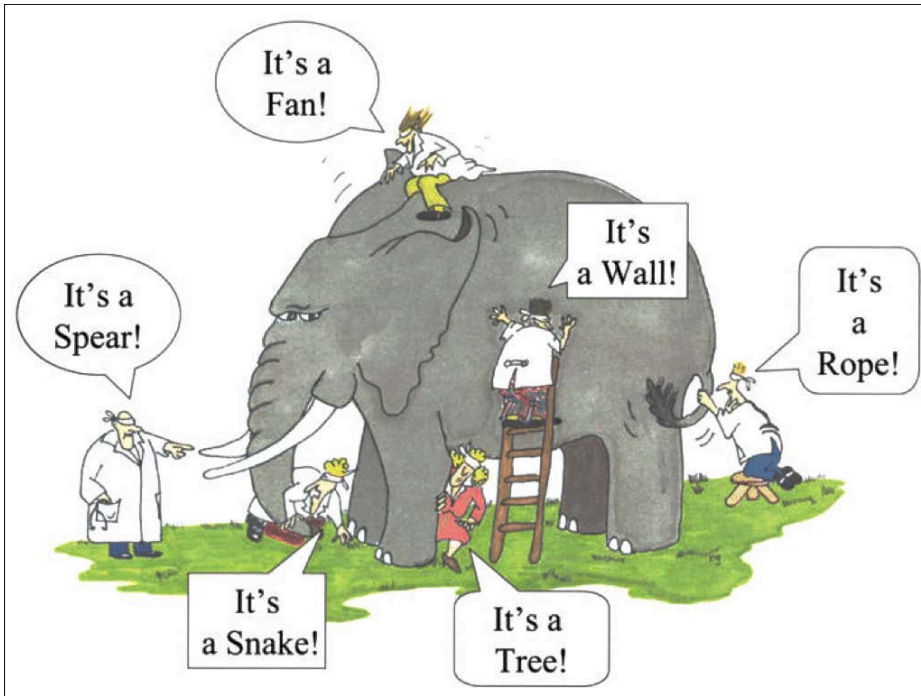
- Assume beliefs point to reality or “essence”
- Different religions = different perceptions
  - ➔ Blind men and the elephant
- Hick (“the Real”), Eliade (“the Sacred”)
- *The Lion King*: Mufasa really does live in the sky
- Critiques: Gill, McCutcheon, Wiebe

71

# 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”

72



Russell McCutcheon



Donald Wiebe

74

## “Common Sense”

- Leach, Malinowski, Geertz, Evans-Pritchard, Tonkinson (p. 119-123)
  - ➔ Don't worry about this section
  - ➔ Main point: “belief” is complicated!!

75

## Cognitive Approaches

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

76