• Explain Julia Leslie’s theory of reading by:
  a) describing its connection to Stanley Fish’s theory; and
  b) showing how it might apply to a specific religious text.

• What is “logocentrism” and how does Derrida feel about it?

• Give four examples of hybridity involving specific religious traditions.

Anonymous Feedback

• Tutorial reflections
• Not seeing people with hands up
• Bill Burr clip
  ➡ Thanks!
• Professors and snow days?

Today

• Assignments!
• Finish: “Texts”
  1. Theories of texts
  2. What do texts mean?
  3. Which texts do we study?
  4. Why study texts?
• Start: Culture
  1. What is “culture”?

6. “Texts” + Culture
Assignments!

Film Paragraph
- Grades + assignments will be posted later this week
- You ≠ your grades
- Key problem: not following instructions
  ➡ Chance to learn and improve

Film Paragraph
- Learning and improving
  ➡ Education!
  ➡ Please look at feedback from TA
  ➡ Also look at samples posted on Quercus (under Assignments > Film Paragraph)
  ➡ Students who met with me or the TAs improved their work

Film Paragraph
- Grading process + appeals
  ➡ Will post announcement
  ➡ Not graded to achieve certain average
  ➡ C = adequate (UofT standard)
Film Analysis

• Film Analysis: due February 28

• Yes: use theory to interpret film
• No: use film to understand theory (or use film to illustrate or prove theory)

Use theory to interpret film
➡ Avoid the obvious!
➡ Look for interesting questions
➡ Start with what you don’t understand
➡ E.g., why are Scar and Mufasa so different?

4 paragraphs in total:
1. Belief (revised!)
2. Ritual ➡ Feb. 26 tutorial homework (bring 2 copies)
3. Text
4. Reflection

Ask for help!
➡ Me / your TA
➡ RG Academic Skills Centre
➡ AccessAbility Resource Centre
➡ Health + Counselling Centre
**Film Analysis**

- Ritual paragraph
  - Do not worry about whether an action is a “ritual” or not
  - Simply use a theory of ritual to analyze any action(s) you like
  - Question: what does the action mean?
  - Using Freud’s theory, it’s possible to see that Simba uses the “hakuna matata” ritual to avoid dealing with problems.

**Film Analysis**

- Text paragraph
  - Apply theories to “texts” WITHIN the film
  - “Text” = anything in the film that is spoken, sung, written, named, signed, etc.
  - “Author” = character who writes or speaks
  - “Reader” = character who reads or listens

**Field Research Analysis**

- Attend a religious ritual or ceremony with your group
  - Contact site ahead of time (note possible rules – e.g., head covering, no shoes, etc.)
  - Observe everything! (Not just what you think is “religious”)
  - Take group selfie at religious site (inside or outside)

**Field Research Analysis**

- Best to know as little as possible about the religious tradition in advance
  - Not your own religion
  - Do no research
- Analyze observations using Nye’s text
  - Culture OR power OR gender
  - “Field Research Theories” document
1. **Theories** of texts

2. What do texts **mean**?

3. **Which** texts do we study?

4. **Why** study texts?
• **Authorship** (p. 169–71): Michel Foucault + Roland Barthes

• **Readers** (p. 176–78): Wolfgang Iser + Stanley Fish

• **Gender** (p. 178): Judith Fetterley + Julia Leslie

• **Language + interpretation** (p. 158–59): Jacques Derrida

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**Authorship**

- Two issues re: meaning of a text:
  1. Barthes: “Death” of the author (=author’s **intent** is NOT important in determining the meaning[s] of a text)
  2. Foucault: author’s **identity** IS important in determining the meaning(s) of a text (status, expertise, gender, etc.)

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**Barthes: “Death of the Author”**  
**(Author’s Intent is NOT Important)**

“**You know this is your master, eh? Do you feel the lash?**”

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**Last Week’s Song**

- “Shake It Off” by Taylor Swift (2014)
“Shake It Off”

I stay out too late
Got nothing in my brain
That's what people say, mmm-mmm
That's what people say, mmm-mmm

‘Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play
And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate
Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake
I shake it off, I shake it off

author's identity IS important to meaning (Foucault)

How does the author’s identity affect the meaning of the following texts?

“Do not compare yourself to others. If you do so, you are insulting yourself.”

Adolf Hitler
Readers

- Iser: meaning produced by relation b/t reader and text (very broad idea)
- Fish: identity of reader affects how they read a text
  - Science book read by scientist vs. artist
  - Bible read by Christian vs. Hindu
  - Nye's book for you now vs. last month
  - Reader’s view of an author

“Do not compare yourself to others. If you do so, you are insulting yourself.”

Adolf Hitler
Gender

- Fetterley: “important” texts written by, for, and about men
  ➡ Most often male “voice” is heard
  ➡ Sacred texts
  ➡ The Lion King?
- Leslie: gender of reader may impact how a text is read
  ➡ See Stanley Fish

The New Testament

“Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church.” (Ephesians 5:22)

“Let a woman learn in silence with full submission. I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she is to keep silent.” (I Timothy 2:11-12)

Jacques Derrida

- Logocentrism (p. 159)
- Belief that words are a window to the world

“Red Willows”

“One time, Nanabush threw the bear so hard against the ground he broke the earth, and water began to flow through. That in fact is the reason the water now flows past Sault Ste Marie.”
Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
2. The meanings of texts are **variable**

➡ We live in worlds *shaped* by texts
➡ Course syllabi, essay instructions, laws
➡ Sacred texts!
➡ “Red Willows”

Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
   ➡ We live in worlds *shaped* by texts
   ➡ *The Lion King*
      ★ “hakuna matata”
      ★ “he lives in you”
      ★ “you are my son ... and the one true king”
Jacques Derrida

2. The meanings of texts are **variable**
   - Unstable links between words + reality
   - Meaning of words not fixed
   - Meaning affected by changes in history, geography, context, author, reader, etc.
   - Icon? Image of Jesus or saint, usually painted on wood. Used in Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

Icon: The Ladder of Divine Ascent (12th C)

“Fuggetaboutit”
(warning: language)

agree disagree the greatest

go to hell forget about it
End of Part I!

Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
2. The meanings of texts are **variable**

“monster” + cross = ?
Possible Meanings

- “Monster”
  - Evil creature
  - Outcast, marginalized creature/person

- Christian cross
  - Symbol of Christianity
  - Symbol of peace, love, sacrifice, redemption
  - Symbol of colonialism, genocide

Nye p. 62 + p.137

Possible Meanings

- “Monster” + cross = ?
  - Christianity is evil.
  - Christianity is (or should be) about love for those who are marginalized.
“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. . . .

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25: 35–40)

The Pawnee Charter

1. Texts are **important**
   - Throw Ted in the lake!

2. The meanings of texts are **variable**
   - Tea / Ted
   - Seize any “Indian” property
   - Women vs. land-owning males
     (law used to apply, but now people ignore it)
2. What do texts mean?

- Texts have many possible meanings
  - But not infinite meanings
  - Like rituals!
  - Relationship b/t author, text, and reader

- Lots of disagreements over meanings!
  - Sacred text disputes
  - Language is complicated (e.g., meanings of words change over time and place)
  - Literal vs. metaphorical meanings
“I am the gate for the sheep.”
– Jesus (in John 10:7)

Meaning of Texts?

Meaning beyond words/content:

1. Physical text
   - e.g., Judaism (Torah), Sikhism (Guru Granth Sahib)
   - Preservation / destruction

2. Understanding vs. actual content
   - e.g., Garden of Eden (Genesis 2-3)

Meaning of Indigenous stories! (e.g., afterlife, tricksters)

- Meaning of “Red Willows”?
- Literal meaning: history (“this is what actually happened”)
- Possible metaphorical meanings: take care of relationships; don’t be greedy!
3. Which texts do we study?

Which Texts?

- Quotation marks? (“Texts”)
  - Oral “texts”
  - Visual “texts” (movies, TV, internet, etc.)

- Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*
  - All “texts” matter
  - University: “popular” vs “academic”
  - Stories, poems, films, TV shows, lyrics, commercials, billboards, etc., etc.
  - Don’t assume which “texts” are “sacred”
4. Why study texts?

Why Texts?

• Max Müller:
  ➡ Texts are the MOST IMPORTANT
  ➡ Study of religion = study of sacred texts
  ➡ Beliefs, origins, (male) founders
  ➡ “Pure” tradition vs. change over time + how actual people practice their religion
  ➡ Protestant Reformation (Martin Luther) emphasized texts (“sola scriptura”)

Why Texts?

• Power of words / language
  ➡ Names, laws, stories
  ➡ United States: illegal for slaves to read
  ➡ Gerald Ratner’s 1991 speech (“crap”)
  ➡ Prof. Marrus: “You know this is your master, eh? Do you feel the lash?”
  ➡ Malaysia: “Allah” illegal for non-Muslims to use/say

Why Texts?

#MeToo
Why Texts?

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.”

Why Texts?

“Words can break someone into a million pieces, but they can also put them back together. I hope you use yours for good.”

— Taylor Swift

Pause for Reflection

• We have studied:
  ➡ Belief
  ➡ Ritual
  ➡ “Texts”
• These are often connected!

Hakuna Matata
Culture

1. Big picture stuff:
   ➡ What is “culture”?
   ➡ What do we study?

2. Specific theories:
   ➡ How do we study religion and culture?

Culture

• What is “culture”?
  ➡ Everything!
  ➡ Music, film, literature, fashion, food, etc.

• What do we study?
  ➡ Everything!
  ➡ “Elite/high” and “popular/low”
Culture

- What is “culture”?
  - Everything!
  - Music, film, literature, fashion, food, etc.
  - Also religion!
- What do we study?
  - Everything!
  - “Elite/high” and “popular/low”

Culture / religion: always changing

- Hybridity (syncretism) = mix of different cultures / religions (e.g., James Clifford)
- New circumstances/ideas/technology (not necessarily the same as hybridity)
- Result of mixing is often hard to understand / predict
- May be very POSITIVE

In Praise of Mixed Religion
by William Harrison
Princess Leia
*Star Wars IV: A New Hope*

Loch Ness Monster = Naga (Buddhism)
Have a wonderful Reading Week!

End of Part 2!