• What is the TRC? What did it focus on? How is it connected to religion?

• What is Bloom's Taxonomy and how does it relate to RLG101?

• How is religion like a brownie?

Reference Letters

• You may need some!
• Any post-university program
  ➡ Law, teacher's college, grad school, medicine, police, etc.
• Okay to ask your profs!
  ➡ BUT it's important that they know you

Course Stuff!

• Me: no more office hours
  ➡ email to make appointment

• Film Analysis grades: tomorrow night

• Remaining grades will be posted before exam

Assignment Deadlines

• Field Research Analysis: April 7!
• Last Quercus comment: April 9!
• Final date to submit term work: April 24
  ➡ Submit documentation with requests to remove or reduce late penalty
  ➡ After April 24 you MUST petition to have late term work accepted
Field Research Analysis

- Due **April 4**
- Extension to **April 7**
  - No late penalty
  - HOWEVER
  - Will receive minimal feedback if submit after **April 4**
  - Can meet with me for more feedback afterwards

12. Contemporary Religion + EXAM!

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.”

— Dr. Seuss
Today

• Finish: contemporary religion
• What have you learned?
• Course evaluations
• Thinking ahead at UTM
• Study abroad
• Exam!

Contemporary Religion

1. Are people less “religious” now?
2. Contemporary religions
3. “Non-religious” culture
4. Indigenous traditions

“Non-religious” Culture

• Film, literature, TV, music, art, YouTube, sports, games, award shows, protests, etc.
  ➡ “Religions” (=specific traditions)
  ➡ “Religion” (=general / universal)
Song!

- “Good as Hell” by Lizzo (2016)

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Lion King

- “Religion” (= general / universal)
- Meaningful beliefs and actions that are not part of specific traditions within the film
  - Beliefs: be kind, responsible, etc.; no worries (Hakuna Matata!)
  - Actions: Timon and Pumbaa befriend Simba; Simba’s rite of passage

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Lion King

- “Religions” (= specific traditions)
- Beliefs and actions that are part of fictional traditions within the world of the film
  - E.g., Circle of Life; Rafiki’s teachings + practices
- Symbolic references to real traditions
  - E.g., Christianity!

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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
“Messiah” = “Christ” = Anointed One

“And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur.”
(Revelation 20:10)

Darkness (Rev 16:10)

River Dried Up (Rev 16:12)
And the one who was seated on the throne said,

“See, I am making all things new.” (Rev 21:5)
Superman I and II

“I had life threats, because people accused me of approaching Brando as God and his son was Jesus."

“I literally had people saying that my blood would run in the streets for doing that.”

Richard Donner (interview with Ken Plume, 2001)
ACTUAL JESUS!

The Daily Show (Nov. 13, 2014)
Interview with Maziar Bahari (re: Iran prison)

4. Indigenous Traditions
Residential Schools

• 134 federally government funded schools
• 1830s–1996 / ca. 150,000 children
• Point was to “civilize” Indigenous people
  ➡ Assimilate (re: language, culture, etc.)
• Separate children from families / traditions
  ➡ Not permitted to speak own languages or practice their own religions

Residential Schools

• ca. 6,000 deaths (+ more unknown)
  ➡ Disease (tuberculosis) + malnutrition
  ➡ 1906 report: 75% of children died before 18
• Abuse: physical / psychological / sexual / spiritual
• Cut hair / shaved heads
• Given numbers
• Food experiments

Residential Schools

• Schools run by churches
  ➡ Catholic (60%)
  ➡ Anglican (30%)
  ➡ United (10%)

Egerton Ryerson

• Chief Superintendent of Education in Upper Canada (1844-1876)

  “The North American Indian cannot be civilized or preserved in a state of civilization . . . except in connection with, if not by the influence of, not only religious instruction and sentiment but of religious feelings.” (1847)
Apologies

  - Catholic: still waiting . . .
- 1998: Canadian government re: physical and sexual abuse at residential schools
- 2004: RCMP
- 2008: Canadian government re: schools overall
  - Announced the TRC

Prime Minister Stephen Harper (June 2008):

“The treatment of children in Indian Residential Schools is a sad chapter in our history. . . Today, we recognize that this policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm, and has no place in our country.”

“The government recognizes that the absence of an apology has been an impediment to healing and reconciliation. Therefore, on behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians, I stand before you . . . to apologize to Aboriginal peoples for Canada’s role in the Indian Residential Schools system.”

TRC

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
  - Focus on Residential Schools
- June 2008 to December 2015
- Interviewed ca. 6,000 school survivors
- Reviewed schools’ records
- Reviewed government documents
- Issued 94 calls to action
  - Many involve education / schools

Cat Criger: UTM Elder

- Cayuga, of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois)
- Training: Anishinaabe
Indigenous Traditions

• Indigenous people and traditions still exist!
  ➡ Impacted by colonialism, genocide, etc.
• Many modern forms mix old with new
  ➡ Maori: full moko on women
  ➡ Yoruba: Ogun (god of war) connected to welders, car mechanics, and chauffeurs
  ➡ Painting, literature, film
Contemporary Religion

1. Are people less “religious” now?
2. Contemporary religions
3. “Non-religious” culture
4. Indigenous traditions

Bloom’s Taxonomy

- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation

What have you learned in this course?
RLG101H

- STUDY of religion
  - Theories, concepts, methods
    (= tools of analysis)
  - Definitions / meanings (e.g., “belief”)
  - Focus on people, not god(s)
  - Study of religion is study of what people do
  - Avoid assumptions! (Prevent you from seeing what’s really there)

Last Song!

- “Free Your Mind” by En Vogue (1992)

```
I wear tight clothing and high heel shoes  
It doesn’t mean that I’m a prostitute  
I like rap music wear hip hop clothes  
That doesn’t mean that I’m sellin’ dope

Why oh why must it be this way  
Before you can read me  
You gotta learn how to see me

Free your mind and the rest will follow
```
• Film Analysis + Field Research Analysis
  ➤ Learn by doing
  ➤ Original research
  ➤ Critical analysis
  ➤ Difficulty

• Film analysis:
  ➤ Theories: belief, text, ritual
  ➤ Use “religious” theories to examine “non-religious” data

• Field research analysis:
  ➤ Theories: culture, power, gender
  ➤ Use “non-religious” theories to examine “religious” data
  ➤ Experience!

1. Definition / study of religion
2. Culture
3. Power
4. Gender
5. Belief
6. Ritual
7. Text
8. Contemporary religion
RLG101H

2. Culture
3. Power
4. Gender
5. Belief
6. Ritual
7. Text

Definition  Culture  Power  Gender
Belief  Ritual  Text  Contemporary Religion

Course Evaluations

• Invitation by email
• Due by April 5
• Please do this!
• PLEASE

Complete your course evaluations…

Check your e-mail for a link to your evaluations, or go to uoft.me/openevals and click “Complete Your Evaluations”
Course Evaluations

- Your feedback matters!
- Used to improve teaching
- ALSO affects instructors’ employment
- Write your TA’s name
- Important: COMMENTS!
  ➡ Please be honest and kind

TA Awards

- UofT-wide award
  ➡ Deadline: February 25 (too late!)
- UTM-only award
  ➡ Deadline: May 31
University Education

- Many challenges!
  - Exciting?
  - Scary?
  - Challenging?
  - Find your path / voice
  - Activities, friends, family, solitude, etc.
  - Learning vs grades (why are you here??)

Other Historical Studies Courses?

- Classical Civilizations
- Diaspora and Transnational Studies
- History
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- South Asian Civilizations
- Women and Gender Studies

Other RLG Courses?

- RLG201 Intro to Religion in the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
- RLG202 Intro to Judaism
- RLG203 Intro to Christianity
- RLG204 Intro to Islam
- RLG205 Key Themes in South Asian Religions

Other RLG Courses?

- RLG206 Intro to Buddhism
- RLG207 Intro to Sikhism
- RLG208 Intro to Zoroastrianism
- RLG209 Intro to Indigenous Traditions
- RLG210 Intro to Hinduism
- RLG 211 Introduction to Religion, Media, and Popular Culture
My Courses Next Year

- RLG101 Intro to the Study of Religion
- RLG332 Reel Religion
- RLG333 Biblical Themes in Modern Literature
- RLG401 Religion and the Arts

Other Courses I Teach

- RLG290 Religion in Hong Kong (Summer Abroad)
- RLG316 Religion and Violence
- RLG312 How to Study Religion
- RLG415 Topics: Religion and Death in HK

Also: please visit or email me any time!

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM?

Ecuador
Complete full-year UofT courses in 3-6 weeks
Info sessions (STG): January
Funding available!
Online applications available in December
Deadline: **February 1**

[www.summerabroad.utoronto.ca](http://www.summerabroad.utoronto.ca)
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

study suggestion:

visual learning

Reductionist Theories

Ideology
Gender as Construct

Final Exam!

UTM EXAM JAM
FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2019
RLG101H5
IB 120
6:30PM-8PM

Destress with us with wellness activities!
Final Exam

- **UTM Academic Calendar**
  - Petitions, appeals, deferrals
  - Term work extension past exam period
  - Deferred exams: w/i 72 hours of exam
  - [http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions)

- Exam conflicts (same time +/- or 3 in a row)
- May arrive up to 30 minutes late (if more than 30 minutes late, go to Registrar’s office)
- **No phones, iPods, etc.**
- Water is allowed (no other food or drink)
Final Exam

- **Past exams**: [http://library.utm.utoronto.ca](http://library.utm.utoronto.ca)
  - Only look at ones with my name
  - Note that I often change the course material

- RG Academic Skills Centre:
  - Drop in for help

Final Exam

- Study guide on RLG101H WordPress site
  - Under “Grading” > “Final Exam”
  - Outline of exam
  - Sample question + answer for Part 2
  - What you need to know from the readings

Final Exam

- Monday, April 22, 9am–12pm
  - IB110
  - Check schedule! (Do not trust me!)
- **Read instructions!!!**
- Read all questions
- Calculate approx. time per section
  - This exam has three parts each worth the same amount (\(= \text{max.} \ 1 \text{ hour / section}\))

Final Exam

- Spelling, grammar, etc. will not affect your grade . . .
  - As long as we understand what you are saying!
Final Exam

- RLG101H exam:
  - **Part 1** (20 Marks) - Multiple choice
  - **Part 2** (20 Marks) - Short answers
  - **Part 3** (20 Marks) - Film analysis

“Crib Sheet”!
- Must use template on RLG101H website
- Limit: 100 words each side of the page
- Full rules on RLG101H exam study guide

**IMPORTANT!!**
- Write your own sheet!

Final Exam

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- *Lion King*
- “Indigenous Traditions”
- Malory Nye, *Religion: The Basics*
- “Readings on Writing”
Final Exam

- Readings:
  - Focus on material from lectures + tutorials
  - Lecture slide questions
  - Tutorial homework
  - RLG101H exam study guide
- Key ideas + examples
  - UNDERSTANDING

Final Exam

- Malory Nye, *Religion: The Basics*
  - Theories listed in theory documents provided for writing assignments
  - Make sure you understand all of the summary points at the end of each chapter

Final Exam

- “Indigenous Traditions”
  - (Re-)read all IT texts posted on the course site (under “Readings”)
  - Familiarize yourself with ideas and examples
  - I will NOT ask something like: “Which Indigenous community tells a story about a man finding a tunnel and meeting his dead kinsmen in the underworld?”

Final Exam

- **Part 1** (20 Marks) - Multiple choice
  - Answer on Scantron
  - Possible to get 21/20 (#BonusQuestion!)
- **Part 2** (20 Marks) - Short answers
  - Answer in booklet
- **Part 3** (20 Marks) - Film analysis
  - Answer in booklet
Part 1

According to the course texts, which of the following statements about Indigenous religions are true?

a. Stories of the afterlife may tell us more about how we should live than about what happens when we die.

b. If a mask represents an animal, it almost always means that the community who uses the mask worships that animal.

c. Navajo sand paintings are traditionally used in rituals that preserve the paintings for many years.

d. Typically we are meant to imitate a trickster’s behaviour if that behaviour is driven primarily by self-interest.

e. In all African cultures, white symbolizes purity.

f. Both b and e.

Part 2

• Short answers (20 marks)
• Answer five questions total (4 marks each)
• Five subsections with two questions each
  ➡ 1A/1B  2A/2B  3A/3B  4A/4B  5A/5B
  ➡ Answer ONE question from EACH subsection (e.g., 1B, 2B, 3A, 4A, 5B)
Part 2

- What is ideology? Explain using examples from the Parkland high school students, the Star Trek religion from *Futurama*, and the song “Everything is Everything.”

- 1 mark: explain ideology
- 3 marks: 3 examples

Part 3

- Film analysis (20 marks)
- Four paragraphs (5 marks each)
  - Pick four theories from chapters 2-7 in Nye’s text
  - Each theory must be from different chapter
  - Use one theory for each paragraph
  - (Note: suggested theories in exam guide)

Part 3

- Each paragraph:
  1. Explain theory + identify theorist
  2. Analyze video using theory (use evidence from video to support analysis)
  3. Explain **meaning** that is revealed using theory
Thanks for a great term!

Good luck on all your exams!

Then have a wonderful summer!