

- How might the theory of affective and cognitive belief be used to analyze *The Lion King*?
- How might the theory of habitus be used to analyze *The Lion King*?
- How might the theory of reductionism be used to analyze *The Lion King*?

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2.2: Belief

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Anonymous Feedback

- People talking, can't hear lecture
- FSGs: each session worth 10 marks, or each worth 1 mark?
- hakuna matata



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Course Participation

Marked out of 30:

1. Online discussion comments (6 marks)
2. Tutorials: attendance + homework + reading reflections (33 marks)
3. Reflections on UTM events (5 marks)
4. Reflections on current events (2 marks)
5. PELS workshops (10 marks)
6. Facilitated Study Groups (10 marks)

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Tutorials

- Attendance
 - ➔ Must be present entire time
- Homework
 - ➔ Must submit in person at start of tutorial
- Reading reflections
 - ➔ Must write during tutorials from your memory of the readings for that week

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Today

1. Film Paragraph assignment
2. Theories of belief (+ *Lion King!*)
 - Cognitive vs. affective beliefs
 - Habitus
 - Reductionist theories
 - Non-reductionist theories
 - Belief and common sense
 - Cognitive approaches

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I. Film Paragraph

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Film Paragraph

- Paragraph due **January 24**
- Film lists on WordPress site (under Grading > Film Analysis)
- Each TA has different film list!
 - ➔ Must choose list from *your* TA
 - ➔ Choose a film and watch it this week
 - ➔ Some films: online / streaming

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Film Paragraph

- Instructions on Quercus (Assignments)
- Film Paragraph Form
 - ➔ Answer 6 questions
 - ➔ Write a paragraph analyzing a film from your TA's list using one theory of **belief**
- Will post two documents on Quercus with **advice** and **example paragraphs**

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Film Paragraph

- Tutorial homework for next week:
 - ➔ Choose and watch a film from your TA's list
 - ➔ Download the Film Paragraph Form
 - ➔ Complete a draft of the FP Form (answer all 6 questions + write an analytical paragraph using one theory of belief)
 - ➔ Bring **two copies** of the FP Form

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Film Paragraph

- To analyze a film:
 - ➔ Start with a **question**
 - ➔ Think about any part(s) of the film that seem a bit odd or confusing to you
 - ➔ Can any of the theories help suggest a possible answer?

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Film Paragraph

- TAs will hold **office hours** in MN 4207
 - ➔ Amin:
 - ➔ Amy:
 - ➔ Andrew D: Jan 22 @ 11am-1pm
 - ➔ Andrew T: Jan 20 @ 11am-1pm
 - ➔ Kyle: Jan 20 @ 3-5pm
 - ➔ Rachelle: Jan 20 @ 11am-1pm

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2.Theories of Belief

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“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

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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)

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Cognitive vs. Affective

- Richard Gombrich
- Cognitive belief: what we say/think we believe
 - ➔ Sam: “I believe it is important to vote.”
- Affective belief: what our actions indicate that we believe
 - ➔ Sam votes.
 - ➔ Sam does not vote.

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Cognitive vs. Affective

Gombrich (b. 1937)



- Important: cognitive belief is not “more real” than affective belief
- Point is that “belief” is not just something that happens in our heads — it is also in our bodies

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Cognitive vs. Affective

- Films and evidence:
 - ➔ A character’s cognitive belief?
 - ➔ A character’s affective belief?
- Film analysis: need to consider **both** cognitive and affective belief
 - ➔ How are they related? Does this relation help you understand something?

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Cognitive vs. Affective

- What is the **cognitive** belief of Timon and Pumbaa (and Simba)?
- What is the **affective** belief of Timon and Pumbaa (and Simba)?

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“hakuna matata!”



no worries, no responsibilities

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“we’re with you to the end”

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“we’re with you to the end”

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Cognitive vs. Affective

- Analysis of *Lion King*:
 - ➔ Question:
If Timon and Pumbaa believe in “hakuna matata,” why do they agree to help Simba?

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Cognitive vs. Affective

- Analysis of *Lion King*:
 - ➔ Timon, Pumbaa, and Simba say that they believe in “Hakuna Matata” (cognitive)
 - ➔ Initially their actions also shows they believe in “Hakuna Matata” (affective)
 - ➔ However when their friend is in trouble their actions suggest that they DO believe they have responsibilities (affective)

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Cognitive vs. Affective

- Possible meaning?
 - ➔ For T+P “hakuna matata” applies sometimes
 - ➔ Having “no worries” can help them deal with bad experiences in the past, and be happy under normal circumstances
 - ➔ However if there is a crisis in the present or if a friend needs help, T+P think that they do have responsibilities

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Habitus

- Pierre Bourdieu and Catherine Bell
- Cultural context of people’s lives
 1. Bourdieu: impact of cultural context on our beliefs
 - ➔ Note: we still have individual choice (agency)

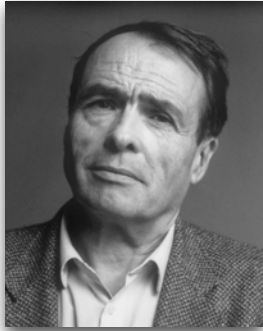
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Habitus

- Pierre Bourdieu and Catherine Bell
- Cultural context of people’s lives
 2. Bell: how specific beliefs are viewed/ practiced can change depending on context (culture, situation, etc.)
 - ➔ E.g., belief in “sanctity of life” (Nye 125)

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Habitus



Bourdieu (1930–2002)



Bell (1953–2008)

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“So why worry?”



“Because it’s your responsibility!”

Habitus

- Questions:
 - ➔ Why do Nala and Simba disagree over whether Simba should go back?
 - ➔ Simba believes in “hakuna matata” and so do Timon + Pumbaa: why does Simba refuse to help Nala but T+P help Simba?

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Habitus

- Why do Nala and Simba disagree over whether Simba should go back?
 - ➔ Bourdieu: impact of cultural context on beliefs
 - ➔ Simba is exposed to two cultures that teach two different belief systems; Nala was exposed to just one culture
 - ➔ Responsibility (“circle of life”) vs no responsibility (“hakuna matata”)

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Habitus

- Why does Simba refuse to help Nala but Timon + Pumbaa help Simba?
 - ➔ Bell: the same belief can be understood and practiced in different ways
 - ➔ For Simba “hakuna matata” means “no responsibilities” all the time
 - ➔ For T+P “hakuna matata” does not apply if there’s a problem they can help with

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What purpose might belief in Santa serve?



Reductionist

- Religion is “really” about something else (of THIS world) — naturalistic approach
- “humans make up images of god for human purposes”
- Reductionist theories: objects of religious beliefs are constructed by people, they don’t really exist
 - ➔ “Reduce” god(s) to products of human beings

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“the old sky cake dodge”



Patton Oswalt: *My Weakness is Strong*

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Reductionist

- Usually a critique of religion
 - ➔ Beliefs are false/meaningless
- Other (more positive) perspectives that still take a reductionist approach
 - ➔ Religious beliefs teach us values, provide our lives with meaning, etc.
 - ➔ Afterlife stories (this week's reading)

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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?*

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“he lives in you”



“Father?”

“remember who you are”



“the one true king”

Reductionist

- “humans make up images of god for human purposes”
- Question: if Sky Mufasa isn't real, why does Simba think he sees his father?
 - ➔ What is Simba's purpose?
 - ➔ Relationship with his father
 - ➔ Internal struggle: should he go back home and help?

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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
- Might be possible to apply reductionist theory to other abstract concepts (i.e., things that don't objectively exist)

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Reductionist

- Abstract concepts:
 - ➔ Love, honour, tradition
 - ➔ Why might someone believe in “honour”? (since it doesn't objectively exist)
- *Lion King*?
 - ➔ Simba and “hakuna matata”
 - ➔ This belief gives him a reason to avoid facing his problems?

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Song

- “What You Believe” by Luba (1986)



Do we see what is real
Or just what we believe (to be real)
In your eyes there's a burning
And blind faith (faith in me)

I am not your messiah
Madonna, or maker of dreams
And all that I am
Is not all that you're making me (out to be)

And in the end
We are not more than woman or man
And in the end am I
What you believe I am?

The End!