

Nature of Religious Experience

Essay Response Paper #2

Due Wednesday, November 18, 2015 (before 11:50pm)

Select one of these eight music videos (linked under week 12 on course page) and emailed to the class.

John Lennon, God
Led Zeppelin, Stairway to Heaven
Iron Maiden, Number of the Beast
Dio, Live for the King
Black Sabbath, God is Dead?
U2, Magnificent
Muse, Bliss
Tool, Parabola

And answer one (and only one) of following questions in connection with your selected song. Where x = your selected song,

1. Does x convey non-dual/mystical spiritual experience or the personalism of theistic experience?
2. Does x convey the healthy-minded or sick-soul type of religion?
3. Does x suggest a distinction between personal and institutional religion? Are the lyrics favorable or unfavorable to either?
4. Does x convey (some aspect of) the process of unification? Would you characterize the unification envisioned as spiritual (i.e., conversion)?

Your paper must meet the following guidelines.

Technical Requirements:

- Paper must be 750-800 words in length, double-spaced, and must include a word count inserted into the paper.
- Paper must be submitted via the Turnitin link on the iLearn course page before the due date 11/18/15 @11:50pm.
- You should quote and/or reference lyrics where necessary to support your claims, as well as briefly explain any relevant philosophical concepts. For instance, if you're discussing concepts found in William James, make sure they are explained. Assume the reader isn't familiar with the concepts. If you feel visual symbols (in songs with music videos) are relevant, explain.
- Make sure your paper is well organized. A very clear thesis statement in an introductory paragraph is absolutely necessary. Make sure each paragraph has a single main point that is clearly tied to your overall argument, and that the steps in your argument are very clear as the reader moves from one paragraph to the next.

Content Requirements:

- You must have a thesis statement that provides an answer to the question you've selected in relation to the song you've selected. In some cases, the question you're answering

may require comparison and contrast. You provide clear support for your thesis (your answer to the prompt). It's vital that you clearly offer support for your thesis by offering reasons that allegedly show why you are correct, and your reasons should engage the lyrical content of the song you've selected and textual sources as appropriate.

Professor Sudduth