Final Humanities Writing Assignment!!!!

1. Our friend, Arthur Schopenhauer, tells us that life is suffering. Certainly, some of our authors seem to offer a bleak view of human experience in Western Civilization. Yet, do they offer the possibility of escaping human suffering, or even achieving happiness? Under what condition can one achieve happiness? What is the relation between civilization and human happiness? Does civilization inherently prevent happiness? Using two of the following authors – Nietzsche, Freud, and Kafka – write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast the authors’ views on how one can achieve happiness.

2. At the heart of Kafka (The Metamorphosis and Conversation with the Supplicant) and Freud (Civilization and its Discontents) is the tension between Eros and Thanatos. What is this relationship between sex/love and death and how do our authors reflect on society and individual affected by this tension? Write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast Freud and Kafka on what it means for an individual living a society dominated by the tension of Eros and Thanatos.

3. If Gregor Samsa became Freud’s patient, then how would Freud analyze the Shitbug? Using a Freudian interpretation, write a thesis-based essay in which you reinterpret The Metamorphosis. Note: you may use a dialogue format to write this essay. However, like any Humanities essay it must contain a thesis in the introductory paragraph.

4. Our goal in Humanities has always been about hearing what you have to say. Let’s take it up a notch, shall we?
   Option 1: Using one of the following authors – Nietzsche, Freud, and Kafka – and one author from any text that you read in the Humanities sequence (Hum 1-4), write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast your two authors’ views on a theme of your choice.
   Option 2: Using any two of the following authors – Nietzsche, Freud, and Kafka – write a thesis-based essay in which you compare or contrast your two authors’ views on a theme of your choice.
   The requirement:
   A). You must develop your own topic on a specific debatable issue. Your proposed prompt must be in a written format and must be attached to your essay.
   B). Your section teacher must approve your project in advance. If you do not consult with your section teacher, then you will not be allowed to write on this prompt. Note: You must get a clearance from your section teacher as soon as possible.

Length: 5-7 pages.
Due: In lecture, Tuesday 26 May. Please hand your essay to your section leader after lecture. Late papers will be penalized by the subtraction of one third of a letter grade per day. Finally, don’t forget turnitin.com!