***Hasidism: A Life Apart***

Discussion Questions:

1. How does this community define its identity? What are the roles of religion and culture in this? How do you understand the intersection of religion and culture?
2. How does religion define this Hasidic community? Their families?
3. What are some of the ways that they maintain their community and identity?
4. Why don’t they participate in civic life? Explain?
5. How is this community a challenge to secularization thesis? Americanization?
6. How does geography inform Hasidic identity? Communal life?
7. How do they mark insider/insider status? Why is this important? What role does it play?
8. What role does ritual play for this community? Explain.
9. What role does family play for this community? How is the community mimetic of the family?
10. What is the relationship between sacred and profane? Sacred and profane space?
11. How does this film both challenge and affirm both functionalist and reductionist theories? Explain.
12. How does this community reflect Durkheim’s arguments? Explain.
13. Further questions? Comments? (You should have a few).