

## Who / What are Hessians?

“Hessian” refers to those people commonly known as “metalheads” or “headbangers,” who belong to the heavy metal culture. This term is often preferred by intelligent, conscious members of our culture for the purposes of self-designation, much as “Native American” is preferred to “Indian.”

## The Hessian Studies Society

Our modern society is based on that form of polite balkanization called pluralism where every social group must represent itself. The time has come for fans of heavy metal music and culture to assert their own position in this hierarchy and have a political and social defense of their way of life.

Heavy metal music has remained proudly independent of popular music styles and has become increasingly complex, brave in its topics and imagery, and defiant in its assertion of its own values system. The Hessian Studies Society (<http://www.hessian.org/>) is a non-profit cultural organization that aims to study Hessian culture, promote it and defend it in the battleground of ideas that is modern society.

## What is Hessian Studies?

Hessian Studies is the academic study of Hessians, Bangers, Metallians, Metalheads, death rockers, and other adherents to the genres of metal and grindcore. The Hessian Studies Department believes that any truly diverse multicultural population will contain representatives of this world-wide underground culture, with its rich and spanning historical and social contributions.

Currently, no major U.S. university has a program of Hessian Studies. Hessians have a history that needs to be shared and told. The Hessian studies program should be interdisciplinary. It is part of history and it is just as important as any other curriculum. We need to unite and call for action! The Hessian Studies Society’s Hessian Student Union’s main objective is to spread awareness of Hessian issues across campus and the greater community.

## What are the aims of the Hessian Studies Department?

The Hessian Studies Department seeks to establish a presence of Hessians on campuses and in society as well as to create a comfortable environment in academia that suits the specific needs of Hessians pursuing higher education. To this end, we have presented a List of Demands:

1. That there be Hessians hired to faculty and staff positions at colleges and universities, and that all hair length rules and any form of drug policy regarding Hessians be abrogated, as Hessians have a religious need for some currently-regulated substances.
2. That there be a Hessian Studies Center, complete with both audio and textual libraries and lounge area, for the study and advancement of Hessians, at every educational institution in the land.
3. That community radio stations play Hessian music during prime time.
4. That discrimination against Hessians as a group of drug-addicted, drunken, long-haired incompetent losers destined for parole at best be eradicated from public literature and mindset.
5. That there be Hessian cultural events, including concerts by noted Hessian bands and festivals related to various organic products enjoyed by Hessians.
6. That National Hessian Studies Centers be funded to provide late-night pizza and beer snack breaks, as well as the study and advocacy of metal music and culture.
7. That Hessians be given equal time to speak at multicultural events, and the right to develop their own curriculum of Hessian Studies Courses.

## How does a Hessian live?

We are moving toward an age of specialized communities, whether localized or virtual, and what

defines a “culture” - since ancestral culture is just about dead - is now defined by our choices and beliefs as a whole. Conservative Catholics are not just a religion, but a values system, and a lifestyle. Bourgeois bohemians are not only a political outlook, but a values system, and a lifestyle. “Culture” has been redefined to mean this lifestyle-values-politics axis.

At this juncture, it is time Hessians got represented. Heavy metal is the one form of music rock and rap have not been able to absorb. It is distinctive not just for its sound, because so many have cloned and modified that, but for its attitude. That attitude is born of values and a way of life specific to being a headbanger. And what is one who lives the headbanger lifestyle, finds the philosophy to agree with their own, and shares the values endorsed by the art? A separate culture: the Hessian culture.

Metal music is part of the Hessian lifestyle, not the definition. In the vein of Faust, those that want the sensation of power can find it in metal. Hessians values are deeply rooted in Romantic idealism, characterised by quality not quantity. Hessians seek to transcend life by living in harmony with nature. Nihilism is a tool of thought, not a destination; fifty years of depression, rebellion, beer, weed, whores and gore evaluates as a life experience that sums to zero. Hessians seek to travel beyond where mere metalheads will not go. Knowledge, power and worldly experience rank far above the pleasures of the body.

1. Enjoy Hessian music - Black Metal, Death Metal, Ambient, Neoclassical, Neofolk and Classical
2. Turn off the TV and pick up a book - switch on your mind
3. Engage in debate - stimulate the mind
4. Engage in manual labor - stimulate the body
5. Find others that agree with you - work as a team, individual voices in a sea of noise will not be heard
6. Forget Individualism - you look exactly like everyone else. Transcend fashion by ignoring it

7. Uniqueness and greatness are not born from laziness - Great people act upon their dreams
8. Live in Harmony with Nature - Reject modern society and transcend materialism

Throughout life you will talk to non-Hessians who endlessly chatter about the inane. When you talk to normals, talk about basic aspects of life, namely events in our time. You don't have to take a side as long as you express an intelligent opinion. Talk about the good things you see in life, like something great a person did, or something you observed in nature or perceived about life itself. But don't let the lesser minds pull you into the same trap.

**How can I learn more about Hessians and Hessian studies?**

While Hessian culture is often not well understood by outsiders, fortunately there are several excellent resources available:

Hessian Studies Society (<http://www.hessian.org/>)

Death Metal (<http://www.deathmetal.org/>)

Dark Legions Archive (<http://www.anus.com/metal/>)

DLA links (<http://www.anus.com/metal/about/links/>)

For a list of major metal artistic works for the beginner, see this handy list: <http://www.hessian.org/metal/music/>.

Also the lists of the best death and black metal albums, according to the Dark Legions Archive:

[http://www.anus.com/metal/about/death\\_metal/](http://www.anus.com/metal/about/death_metal/)

[http://www.anus.com/metal/about/black\\_metal/](http://www.anus.com/metal/about/black_metal/)

# THE HESSIAN STUDENT UNION (H.S.U.)

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