

Philosophy 2330: Science and Society
Fall 2019
Fourth short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Friday, Oct 25th. **ALSO** please make your essay anonymous by putting your R# at the top of the page and **NOT** your name.

You are to write an argumentative essay of roughly one page (400-600 words) on something related to chapter 1 of Neil Levy's *What Makes us Moral?* or Julian Savulescu's "Genetic Interventions and the Ethics of Enhancement of Human Beings" paper. This is an argumentative paper. You must describe and defend some particular thesis. A good paper is clear, easy to read, and provides good arguments for its conclusion. But exactly what you write about is quite open ended.

Here are some sample issues to consider:

- 1) The connection between the biological theory of natural selection and social progress.
- 2) Whether there is some reason to think it is wrong to interfere with or good to promote natural selection.
- 3) The meaning of "fitness" in evolutionary theory and in the theory that underlies Social Darwinism.
- 4) Whether Social Darwinists were committing a logical mistake, an empirical mistake, a moral mistake, or perhaps no mistake at all.
- 5) Whether any particular Eugenics views are justified.
- 6) Is the genetic modification of human embryos every morally permissible? Could it ever be morally required?
- 7) If some cases of genetic engineering or manipulation are justified and others aren't, what is the key difference between these cases?