

Philosophy 2330: Science and Society
Spring 2018
Fourth short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Tuesday, April 3rd. **ALSO** please make your essay anonymous by putting your R# at the top of the page and **NOT** your name.

You are to write roughly one page (400-600 words) on something broadly within the topic of evolutionary theory and ethics and how they are (or are not) related. 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. You might discuss social Darwinism or Eugenics—or perhaps the meaning of “altruism”. Any topic relevant to the relevant readings for the previous two weeks (Levy chapters 1+2 and Clark chapter 9) is acceptable.

Here are some sample theses statements you might try to defend:

- 1) Evolution shows that there is no objective morality.
- 2) Evolution is irrelevant to the truth of any particular moral claim.
- 3) Biological altruism and selfishness is unrelated to the altruism and selfishness that is central to our moral thinking.
- 4) Eugenics is morally wrong when it involves X but would be okay if it only involved Y.