

Philosophy 3334 Fall 2023
Reading questions #11
Due Thu, Nov 2

1) Read Elliott Sober's "Separating Nature and Nurture." Sober points out that measuring the heritability of a trait is not the same as asking whether or not it is inherited. How do these come apart?

If you measure the heritability of the number of hands in the US adult population today, do you think it will be highly heritable? Or have low heritability? Or in between? Why?

2) On page 58 Sober says that prior to the invention of eyeglasses, poor vision was highly heritable. He doesn't say but seems to be implying that it is no longer highly heritable. Why would he say that? What if the population was 18 year olds in the United States today? Is poor eyesight heritable in this population? Is this any different than five hundred years ago? Why?

3) After reading the chapter, come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed. This could be something that the chapters forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the chapters.