

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2018
Reading questions #12
Due Thur, June 21th

1) Read Donald Symons "The Evolution of Human Sexuality: Sexual Choice" (Chapter 28 of *Arguing about Human Nature*). Symons points out that when seeking a sexual partner, of course men care about beauty and about status and women care about beauty and about status, but Symons claims that women care relatively more about status. What does he mean by status here? Does thinking about evolution give you any reason to think that men and women would be different in this regard? Why?

Symons cites a 1951 study that claims that in fact in human women do care more about status than men do. But this could be an artifact of women's relative lack of social power. But if Symons predicts that if women achieved equal political and social power with men, this asymmetry would still exist. What do you think? Do you think women in the US in the 21st century still care more about status than men do? Why do you think this is true?

2) 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.