

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2018
Reading questions #16
Due Wed, June 26th

1) Read Patrick Bateson's "Behavioral Development and Darwinian Evolution" (chapter 12 in our book). There are a number of problematic health outcomes for adults which are known to occur at higher frequencies in individuals who had relatively low weight at birth. It has been suggested that this is actually the result of an adaptation – this view is known as the "thrifty phenotype" hypothesis. What is this hypothesis? How could it be the result of an adaptation if this phenotype is leading to poor health outcomes?

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.