

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2020
Reading questions #5
Due Tues, June 9

1) Read Chapter 8.

Unlike any other primates that we know of, human females go through menopause after which they are no longer capable of bearing children. What does Dawkins suggest might be an explanation for this? Can you think of a way that you might try to test his theory?

2) Read Chapter 9. It turns out that in a great many species (not all) there are roughly equal numbers of males and females born every generation. What is the basic explanation for why this is true? HINT: We know that there are genes that can influence the sex ratio so this is not explained by some mathematical or biological fact which guarantees that the probability of any particular child is male is $1/2$.

3) After reading the chapters, 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.