

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2020
Reading questions #9
Due Mon, Jun 15th

1) In the Introduction to the 30th anniversary edition of *The Selfish Gene*, Dawkins suggests a number of other possible titles for his book that he now thinks might have been better such as *The Immortal Gene*, *The Altruistic Gene*, and *The Cooperative Gene*. Do you think the actual title of *The Selfish Gene* is misleading? Do you think any of these other titles would have been better? Why or why not?

2) In the epilogue to the 40th anniversary edition, Dawkins points out that it seems that since you have 2 parents and 4 grandparents and 8 great grandparents and ... and 2^n ancestors n generations in the past, if you go back, say, 1000 years this is roughly 40 generations and so you should have 2^{40} ancestors living then which is approximately 1 trillion people. Obviously this is more ancestors than there were people alive at that time. How can this be?

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.