

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2021
Reading questions #5
Due Wed, 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) Imagine that the time at which a mother weans her child (stops producing milk) is completely genetically controlled. From the selfish gene's point of view, explain:

- 1) Why doesn't the mother want to continue breastfeeding forever?
- 2) Why doesn't the child want to continue breastfeeding forever?
- 3) Why the ideal weaning time is different for the mother vs. the child.

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.