

Philosophy 3334 Fall 2023
Reading questions #5
Due Thur, Sept 21

1) Read Chapter 7.

What does Dawkins think is the basic explanation for why animals have the number of offspring that they do? For example, many birds have a typical clutch size (how many eggs they can lay at one time) and this varies across species. Why isn't it more? Or less?

2) 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?

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.