

Philosophy 3334: Philosophy of Biology
Spring 2018
Sixth (and last) short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Tuesday, May 1st. **ALSO** please make your essay anonymous by putting your R# at the top of the page and **NOT** your name.

You are to write roughly one to two pages (500-700 words) on something related to race, biology, and human nature. The essay should make specific reference to at least one of the readings that we have done in class.

This is an argumentative paper. You must defend some particular thesis. A good paper is clear, easy to read, and provides good arguments for its conclusion. But exactly what you write about is quite open ended.

Here are some example topics or theses that you might discuss:

- 1) Is racial eliminativism the best way to combat racism?
- 2) How should we think about the question of what "race" means? Who are the linguistic experts here?
- 3) Is race a biological category? Or social?
- 4) Are races natural kinds?
- 5) Is race like sex and/or gender? In what ways?
- 6) Is it possible for someone to change their race during their lifetime? Is it possible that people with identical biological characteristics would be different races depending on where and when they were born and lived? What do the answers to these questions tell us about whether race is socially constructed?
- 7) What do the population genetics studies such as Rosenberg et al. 2002 tell us about human races? Are the genetic clusters that they identify different races of people?
- 8) Is Hispanic and/or Latino a race? Why or why not?