

Paper Assignment

For this assignment, you will need to write a 4-6 page (typed, double-spaced) paper that addresses the following question.

Fukuyama writes:

The aim of this book is to argue that [...] the most significant threat posed by contemporary biotechnology is the possibility that it will alter human nature and thereby move us into a "posthuman" stage of history. This is important, I will argue, because human nature exists, is a meaningful concept, and has provided a stable continuity to our experience as a species. It is, conjointly with religion, what defines our most basic values. Human nature shapes and constrains the possible kinds of political regimes, so a technology powerful enough to reshape what we are will have possibly malign consequences for liberal democracy and the nature of politics itself. (7)

The movie *Gattaca* explores a future where technology has damaged liberal democracy, if not the core essence of what it means to be human. Do you think the futures that *Gattaca* and Fukuyama warn us about are reasonable predictions of what is to come, or are they based on incorrect assumptions about technology and about people?

Use **Nosich's seven standards** to evaluate the reasonableness of the future predictions put forth by Fukuyama and by *Gattaca*. (Please bold each standard as you discuss it.)