

# Third Discussion Class

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## Discussion Question

What is evolution?

- A. Natural selection operating on a population
- B. Mutations leading to genetic diversity
- C. Increased genetic complexity and diversity
- D. Branching of the tree of life through speciation

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## Discussion Question

Should essentialism about species be abandoned?

- A. Yes. All we need are lineages
- B. No. We need to know when lineages start and end, and for that we need to know the essence
- C. No. What matters are the species that are possible, and this is determined by their essences
- D. Other

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### Discussion Question

If the notion of species proves problematic, what should one do?

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### Discussion Question

Can you think of examples of “developmental constraints” in human artifacts? Or features of artifacts that are the result of such constraints?

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### Discussion Question

How could we figure out whether a trait was promoted by natural selection or was the product of some other process (e.g., development)?

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## Discussion Question

What is a trait of a group that would most advance the evolutionary outcome of its members?

- A. Cooperation between members in raising young
- B. Aggressive warfare that procures new resources
- C. Effective enforcement of group disciplines
- D. Effective stimulation of creative problem solving

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