

1           What is required to have a human life? We must look beyond the discourse  
2 we considered a few months back on DNA, and perhaps look outside the  
3 philosophical box in considering if a biological being is even the cutoff mark.  
4 Certainly DNA defines the form we all agree is a “human”, but personally I don’t see  
5 why having a human life necessarily requires this form.

6           Yes, DNA is natural and thus anything with human DNA has a human life, but  
7 it doesn’t mean that artificial intelligence cannot, in time, replicate the other factors  
8 of humans we’ve discussed over the past few months. We’ve used the examples of  
9 robots coded to beat any human player at certain games in the past. Though not  
10 exhibiting full human lives, these are replicating and perfecting specific traits of us  
11 humans. Something like Data from *Star Trek* or the robot who ultimately calls  
12 himself Andrew from *Bicentennial Man* are exhibiting where artificial intelligence  
13 may someday replicate us humans more completely.

14           Virtually everything that I’ve previously discussed in the written responses  
15 for this course are elements of what make up a human life. But none of those, save  
16 the authentic DNA, are restricted to the biological form we each are an instance of  
17 (as far as we know, that is...). Someday all of those other elements will be replicated  
18 to being something that is programmed into a robot, and the code of that  
19 programming will itself be the replacement for our DNA.

20           What is required to have a meaningful human life? This is tied to the way we  
21 each govern our lives. The discussion of reason versus will and emotion plays a part  
22 in what becomes a meaningful life. A life void of emotions simply cannot be  
23 meaningful (in that situation “meaningful” has no meaning), yet one ruled by

24 emotion alone is void of the control human society requires of its human  
25 individuals.

26         To draw in artificial intelligence let me ponder what happens if we rephrase  
27 the question to remove “human” from it. Robots have a meaningful life if they  
28 accurately perform the tasks for which they were programmed. In the same strain  
29 we humans have a meaningful work life if we follow the orders of our bosses. So  
30 while meaning does have an individual choice aspect to it we also see that standards  
31 exist to govern what we humans define as meaningful.

32         The requirements of meaningful human lives are thus a different thing from  
33 the requirements for human life itself. Many may be identical, but the one thing that  
34 sticks out is the free will choices that can govern meaningfulness of human lives  
35 whereas the actual human lives don’t have as much variation.