

**Diablo Valley College – San Ramon Valley Campus**  
**POLSC 120 – 8402: Introduction to Politics**  
**Spring 2026 Research Project**

**Human Nature and the Fate of Our Species**

**Question:** What is the relationship between human nature and our fate as humans? Due to converging crises that we as humans are currently experiencing (political, economic, environmental, psychological, and even spiritual), many scientists, theologians, philosophers, and other scholars have revived a millennial-long debate about the fate of the human species. Generally speaking, the arguments fall into two broad categories: On the one hand, our nature and propensity toward progress will save us from some of our worst impulses. But on the other hand, there is the more sanguine view that our nature is in fact driving us to certain extinction. After analyzing and evaluating the various positions we examined this semester, please answer the following question: What is our “true” nature and how will it contribute to determining our fate?

**Sample Outline**  
(But feel free to set this essay up as you wish)

**I. Introduction / Thesis Statement** – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant to this issue (approximately 1 page).

**II. Body** – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence that you have found to support this position (approximately 10 pages).

- A. Evidence from science – (books, articles, documents, websites)
- B. Evidence from religion – (books, articles, documents, websites)
- C. Evidence from philosophy – (books, articles, documents, websites)

**III. Conclusion** – based on your analysis looking at three different perspectives on the question, your conclusion on whether the human race will continue into the future and what that future might look like if we do (approximately 1 page).

**Extras:**

1. The paper will be done in APA format. Make sure to include a citation *every time you use a statement or idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you have found in your own independent research*. Using other’s ideas or work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.

2. An “A” paper will be:

- a) fully documented and cited with at least 2 – 3 books;
- b) a *minimum* of 15 pages in length (to include the title, abstract and reference page, meaning 12 full pages of text analysis);
- c) research *beyond* the authors provided;
- d) turned in *on time* (April 29, 2026).