

LITERATURE, ETHICS, AND AUTHORITY
15.269

Class #17: Wednesday 18 April 2001

See:

Ridley Scott, *Blade Runner* (film; showing Tuesday 4/17, 7 pm, E51-145)

Study Questions:

1. What does it mean to be human in the world of *Blade Runner*? Is there any characteristic we as a species can call uniquely ours?
2. We stand today on the verge of genetic engineering achievements like those described in *Blade Runner*. Is slavery a possibility for us, too, given the societies in which we live?
3. Are there historic precedents for the world depicted in Scott's film? What are the ethical norms of its inhabitants? Who articulated them, and by what means?