

Instructors

Dale Kiefer <kiefer@usc.edu>

Office: AHF M235

Office hours: Tu 11-12:00 Th 11-12:30

James Moffett <jmoffett@usc.edu>

Office: AHF 204

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Lectures ZHS 159 Tues,Thur 9:30-10:50

Kenny Bolster <kbolster@usc.edu>

Office: ZHS 257

Office hours: Tu 3-4, Wed 2-3

TAs Kenny Bolster**Texts** Jared Diamond "Collapse"
Ecobeaker/Evobeaker BISC 102 Custom, Meir
SimUText

DATE	LECTURE	LECTURER	READING	LAB*
10-Jan	Introduction Anthropogenic Planet	Kiefer	Stars & Beetles Lucretius	
12-Jan	Discussion of NY Times Article on Stars & Beetles	Kiefer	Lucretius	No labs first week
17-Jan	Human Evolution	Kiefer	Selections from Sapiens Harari	
19-Jan	Human Evolution: Revolutions	Kiefer		My footprint.org
24-Jan	Population Dynamics & Human Population	Kiefer	ST Pop. Growth: 1,2, 3	EB: Isle Royale
26-Jan	Ecology: Photosynthesis & Respiration	Kiefer		
31-Jan	Origins of Life	Kiefer	ST Community Dynamics:1,2,3	
2-Feb	Ecosystem Structure: Trophodynamics	Kiefer		ST Experimental Design
7-Feb	Community Structure	Kiefer	ST Physiological Ecology 1	
9-Feb	Agriculture	Kiefer	Community Dynamics 4, 5	ST Population Models
14-Feb	Darwins Theory	Kiefer	ST Evolution 1, 2	
16-Feb	Midterm 1	Kiefer		Darwins Finches
21-Feb	Collapse 1	Moffett	Collapse 1-8	
23-Feb	Collapse 2 - Chaco and the Maya	Moffett	Collapse 1-8	Page Museum
27-Feb	Nutrient Cycles	Moffett	ST Nutrient cycles 1, 2	
1-Mar	Climate Change 1	Moffett		Nutrient Cycles Sections 3, 4
6-Mar	Climate Change 2	Moffett	Climate Change 1, 2 & Selected Articles	Climate Change 3, 4
8-Mar	Water	Moffett		
13-Mar	Spring Break			
15-Mar	Spring Break			
20-Mar	Runoff and Deadzones	Moffett	Collapse 9	Presentation of Class Papers
22-Mar	Collapses 3 Japan and Rwanda	Moffett	Selected Articles	
27-Mar	Collapse 4 China- Lurching Giant	Moffett	Collapse 12	
29-Mar	MID TERM EXAM 2	Moffett	Selected Articles	Presentation of Class Papers
3-Apr	Genetics & Population Genetics	Kiefer	ST Evolution Sections 2,3,4	Hyperion Field Trip
5-Apr	The Selfish Gene 1	Kiefer		
10-Apr	Water in California	Moffett	Selected Articles	Darwinian Snails & Mendelian Pigs
12-Apr	Pollution	Moffett		
17-Apr	Conservation Biology	Kiefer	ST Biogeography 1, 2	ST Biogeography 3, 4

19-Apr	Co-operation and the Future	Kiefer		
24-Apr	GMOS and You	Moffett	Collapse 14-16	TBD
26-Apr	The Future	Moffett		
9-May	MIDTERM EXAM 3 8-10AM			
	Grading: 3 Midterms - 100 each, pop quizzes-75 total, lab participation-30, lab assignments-15 each, final paper-50, presentation-50			

Course Policies

Policy on Re-grading Exams

If you feel that an error was made in the grading of an exam, you need to do the following:

1) Check the answer key with your TA, 2) Prepare a printed statement explaining why you feel your grade was incorrect, and 3) Submit your printed statement and your original exam to your TA within one week of the time the exam was returned to you. The TA will either handle the re-grade or consult with the professors. The entire exam will be re-graded and, as a result, your grade may increase or decrease from a requested re-grade. No frivolous reasons will be accepted for requesting grade changes; stated reasons for a grade change must be legitimate (e.g., error in totaling the score).

Policy on Missed Mid term exams

No make-up lecture exams will be given in this course. You may be excused from an exam in the event of a documented illness, emergency, or other serious problem beyond your control. No other excuses for missing exams will be accepted. If you miss an exam for a legitimate reason, and wish to ask for an accommodation, you should proceed as follows. Within 48 hours of the missed exam, send an email to the TA a request that you be excused. In the case of illness, this request must include either an official letter from your doctor stating that you were too sick to take the exam, or your doctor's name and contact information with permission for us to contact the doctor for a limited discussion of your condition. If you see a doctor at the USC Engemann Student Health Center, you will need to download, sign, and submit an "Authorization for Disclosure of Medical Information" to give us permission to speak to your doctor. This form can be found at: <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/files/2012/11/Authorization-for-Disclosure-of-Medical-Information-Professors-Limited-Discussion.pdf>. Note that neither you nor the doctor need tell us the nature of your illness. If you miss an exam for non-illness related reasons, you must provide similarly convincing documentation of the emergency to the TA within a week. If we judge your excuse to be valid, we will give you a grade for the missed exam equal to the average of your grades for the equivalent exams that you did take. Except in extraordinary circumstances, we will make accommodations for only one missed mid term exam. If your excuse is judged not to be valid, or you do not provide it within the allotted time, you will receive a score of zero for the missed exam.

If you miss the final exam and have provided a valid medical excuse to the TA within 48 hours of the exam time, a final course grade of Incomplete (IN) will be recorded and you will be permitted to take a make-up final exam during the following semester.

Policy on Missed Pop Quizzes

No make-up lecture quizzes will be given in this course. You may be excused from a pop quiz only in the event of a documented illness.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given for special projects, etc.

Impairments Affecting Your Performance

Students occasionally encounter difficulties that affect their academic performance, such as illness, accidents, bereavement, depression, anxiety, learning disabilities, and other problems. If you encounter such difficulties, please bring them to the attention of one of the instructors. We can refer you to sources of help and may be able to offer accommodations. All such discussions will be confidential. Please seek help as soon as you feel your performance is being affected.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with the Office of Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Be sure that the letter is delivered to the Laboratory Manager as early in the semester as possible, preferably by January 29, 2016. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Their telephone number is 213-740-0776. If a student's approved accommodation is limited to extra time on examinations, the teaching staff of BISC 102 will provide the accommodation. For any other accommodation, such as a private room, reader or a scribe, students must make prior arrangements with the DSP office 2 weeks before the exam date. For more information please visit the following website:
http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html.

Statement on Academic Integrity

The instructors in this course strongly support the ethics of academic integrity. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00:

<http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Course Website

Students are responsible for logging onto Blackboard (<https://blackboard.usc.edu>) and checking the course website on a regular basis. Postings on Blackboard will be an official source for announcements, course materials, lecture notes, score postings and general discussions. Lecture quizzes will also be completed on Blackboard. Mid term exam scores and lecture quiz scores will be posted under your

LECTURE SECTION. It is the student's responsibility to immediately notify the TA in the event of any mistakes, so please check your scores on Blackboard weekly.