

**Instructors**

Dale Kiefer &lt;kiefer@usc.edu&gt;

Office: AHF M235

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

James Moffett &lt;jmoffett@usc.edu&gt;

Office: AHF 204

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

Neal Sullivan &lt;csulliva@usc.edu&gt;

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**TAs** Yubin Raut <yubinrau@usc.edu>

Kevin Ma &lt;kevincma@usc.edu&gt;

**Texts** Jared Diamond "Collapse"

Symbio Custom Text BISC 102 Custom/ SimuText

DATE	LECTURE	LECTURER	READING	LAB*
12-Jan	Introduction Anthropogenic Planet	Kiefer	ST Pop. Growth: 1	
14-Jan	Discussion of NY Times Article on Stars & Beetles	Kiefer		No labs first week
19-Jan	Human Population	Kiefer	ST Pop. Growth: 2	
21-Jan	Human Evolution	Kiefer	ST Pop. Growth: 3	My footprint.org
26-Jan	Ecosystem Structure: Populations & Communities	Kiefer	ST Physiological Ecology: 1	
28-Jan	Ecosystem Structure: Trophodynamics	Kiefer	ST Community Dynamics:1&2	Isle Royale
2-Feb	Collapse 1	Moffett	ST Predation: 1&2	Tut:Understanding Population Growth Models
4-Feb	Collapse 2 - Water	Moffett	ST Climate Change	Tut:Understanding Population Growth Models
9-Feb	Climate Change	Moffett	News Times Climate Articles	
11-Feb	Climate Change	Moffett	Collapse1-4	Page Museum
16-Feb	Water in California	Moffett	Collapse 5-7	
18-Feb	<b>Mid Term 1</b>		Collapse 8 & 10	ST Climate Change
23-Feb	Nutrient Cycles	Sullivan	ST Nutrient cycles	ST Nutrient Cycles
25-Feb	Nutrient Cycles 2	Sullivan		
1-Mar	China	Moffett	Collapse 12	ST Climate Change
3-Mar	Collapse The Future	Moffett	Chapters 14-16	
8-Mar	Agriculture, Food GMOs	Sullivan	Selected News Articles,	TBA
10-Mar	Aquatic Ecosystems 1: Freshwater	Sullivan	Blogs	
	Spring Break			
22-Mar	Aquatic Ecosystems 2: Marine	Sullivan	Selected News Articles	
24-Mar	<b>MID TERM EXAM 2</b>			EB: Niche Wars
29-Mar	Energy 1	Sullivan	ST Evolution Section 1	
31-Mar	Energy 2	Sullivan		Hyperion Treatment Plant
5-Apr	Origins of Life	Kiefer	ST Evolution Section 3	Term Paper Presentations
7-Apr	Evolution of Complex Life	Kiefer	ST Physiological Ecology Section pgs 1 thru 3.	
12-Apr	Darwins Theory	Kiefer	ST Evolution Section 2,4	Term Paper Presentations
14-Apr	Genetics & Population Genetics	Kiefer		
19-Apr	The Selfish Gene 1	Kiefer		Finches and Evolution

21-Apr	The Selfish Gene 2	Kiefer	Reading from Dawkins & Lane	
26-Apr	Conservation Biology	Kiefer	ST Biogeography Sections 1-3 & "Plan B"	Darwian Snails & Mendelian Pigs
28-Apr	Co-operation and Vision of a Sustainable Planet	Kiefer		
5-May	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 3</b>			
	<b>Grading (610 total points): 3 Midterms - 100 each, 3 pop quizzes- 15 each, lab participation-65, lab assignments-15 each, final paper/presentation 50</b>			

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](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.