

**SAS Honors Seminar 256:
Extraterrestrial Life**

11/8/2011

Reading for Thursday (11/10)

Bennett & Shostak 12.1 – review of Drake Equation

6 short/non-technical articles

Diamond (1987) – humanity's worst mistake

**Diamond (1997) – why European “civilization”
has dominated recent human history**

Gladwell (2005) – why societies collapse

**Diamond (2011) vs. Hunt & Lipo (2011) – duelling
versions of the history of Easter Island**

Ravilious (2005) – how modern civilization might end

Due Tuesday (11/15)

Response paper #8:

Every year, Nobel Prizes are awarded to recognize outstanding accomplishments in the areas of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, peace, and economics. Are there particular high-profile discoveries related to astrobiology that— *if* they were made in the future— you feel would (or would not) be appropriately recognized by Nobel Prizes?

