

**SAS Honors Seminar 259:
Extraterrestrial Life**

11/5/2008

Reading for Monday (11/10)

Bennett & Shostak 12.1 – review of Drake Equation

4 non-technical articles

Diamond (1987) – humanity's worst mistake

Diamond (1997) – why European “civilization”

has dominated recent human history

Gladwell (2005) – why societies collapse

Ravilious (2005) – how modern civilization might end

Due next Monday (11/10)

Response paper #8:

Responsible scientists who report a measurement or a calculation of some quantity will also provide an estimate of the **uncertainty** in that measurement or calculation... [I]dentify a measurement or calculation whose uncertainty limits our ability to reach a conclusion on some question in astrobiology, and explain why this is the case.