

**SAS Honors Seminar 256:  
Extraterrestrial Life**

**9/15/2011**

# Reading for Tuesday (9/20)

**Bennett & Shostak 4.3, 6.2**

- origin of terran life

**Chyba & Sagan (1992)**

- review of different “origin of life” scenarios

**Miller (1953)**

- experiment (significant but wrong?) to reproduce early Earth conditions in a laboratory

**Westheimer (1986) & Gilbert (1986)**

- motivation for and introduction of “**RNA World**” scenario

# Response paper for Tuesday (9/20)

**Write a statement justifying what you believe to be the appropriate level of involvement of Rutgers in the field of astrobiology. Do you favor a new department? an interdisciplinary degree program? an undergraduate major? no commitment at this time to such a speculative enterprise? Your statement should be specific but written at a level that is accessible to a nonspecialist (e.g., a university administrator).**



# Reading for Thursday (9/22)

**No discussion (we'll be visiting the lab of Prof. Costa Vetriani), but you will be expected to participate actively– i.e., ask relevant questions!– so some background reading will be helpful.**

**Bennett & Shostak 5.5, 9.4**

**– terran **extremophiles****

**Online background on Prof. Vetriani and his lab (linked to course website).**

# Details of field trip (9/22)

Meet at **4:35pm** at **Institute of Marine & Coastal Sciences**  
on **Cook/Douglas campus** (<http://marine.rutgers.edu/>).



# Getting to IMCS...

Buses **EE, F, REXB, REXL,**  
and **All Campus** go to  
**Cook/Douglas** campus.

**Food Sciences Building** =  
most convenient stop on  
routes **EE, F, All Campus.**

**Lipman Hall** = most convenient  
stop on routes **REXB, REXL.**

