

**SAS Honors Seminar 256:
Extraterrestrial Life**

12/6/2011

Reading for Thursday

Astrobiology in popular culture...

Lockett (2007) – literature (*The Puppet Masters*)

Bartholomew (2006) – radio (*The War of the Worlds*)

***Le voyage dans la lune* (1902) – film (includes YouTube link)**

Munkittrick (2011) – television (*Star Trek*)

Bohannon (2008) – video game (*Spore*)

Proposed/approved term paper topics

Athar – Searching for Life on Mars

Berger – Practical Implications of the Fermi Paradox

Blaha – Extremophiles and Life on Europa

Carroll – The Future of Space Exploration

Forrest – Martian Meteorites

Gabbay – Congressional Funding for Astrobiological Research

Pao – The Ethics of Terraforming

Parikh – Stars and Their Impact on Extraterrestrial Life

Reichert – The History of SETI

Sbeiti – Extraterrestrial Life in Popular Culture

Singh – The Evolution of Intelligence

Tamutus – Finding Planets That Can Harbor Carbon-Based Life

Term papers: advice on references

- (1) **Primary references** (journal articles, original opinion pieces, books, etc.) are the best.
- (2) **Secondary references** (newspaper or magazine discussions of new results; book reviews) are OK.
- (3) Personal websites whose authorship or date of construction is not clear are **NOT** good.
- (4) Take advantage of the physics and life sciences libraries (even if they are on Busch...).
- (5) Take advantage of **electronic citation databases**. (If you have found one useful article, you can figure out more recent articles that cite it and may also be useful.)
- (6) **Email me** if you need help.

Discussion next Tuesday (12/13)

Organize yourselves into four three-person groups.

Each group should discuss (in person or by email) the various terms in the **original form of the Drake Equation, and agree on consensus **most likely values** and **appropriate uncertainties**. **Do this before class.****

Different groups should not compare answers in advance!