

Midterm

Friday, May 2, 2 pm, in class, open note.

Please write your name and student ID number on your blue book.

1. [50 points] Answer 5 of the following 7 questions:
 - a. How does drawing water from the Ogallala Aquifer in the western US (or from any other “fossil” aquifer) relate to the concept of tragedy of the commons?
 - b. What is Peak Oil and what does it imply for the future of the US economy?
 - c. Identify one reason why the Green Revolution might be considered bad for the environment.
 - d. What limits the carrying capacity of San Diego?
 - e. What are two possible reasons why population is considered a sensitive topic?
 - f. Why is turning up air conditioning an unsatisfactory adaptation strategy for global warming?
 - g. What makes IPCC evaluations of global warming credible?
2. [50 points] Widely reported research by our guest lecturer, Dr. Dan Cayan, has reported a decline in snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California as a result of anthropogenic global warming. In a carefully constructed essay, explain the possible impacts of this decreased snowfall? (Please think broadly, and consider the full range of environmental issues that we have discussed in this class.)