

Our Own Worst Enemy

Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Jack Bartley
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Course texts: *Guns, Germs, and Steel* – Jared Diamond
ISBN 0-393-31755-2 (any edition)
Prologue, and Chapters 4 - 11

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1

Population Growth – models, r & K . Two basic models of population growth will be presented followed by a discussion of how particular species fit the models and where humans belong.

Week 2

Setting the Global Stage and Biomes. This will be an introductory lecture on global structure, temperature and wind patterns, and the structure of biomes. This will be the lead-in to our *Guns, Germs, and Steel* readings.

Week 3

“Yali’s Question” (Prologue), “Farmer Power,” “Haves and Have-nots,” “To Farm or Not to Farm,” and “How to Make an Almond” (Chaps. 4, 5, 6, & 7).

Week 4

“Apples or Indians,” “Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle,” “Spacious Skies and Titled Axes” and “Lethal Gift of Livestock” (Chaps. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)