BioA 382 – Participation Activity

Movie: “How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth?”

Please answer these questions based on the film “How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth?” (BBC, 2009). Links to the movie will be available on the course website. For credit, you must print this worksheet and answer the questions in the space available. It is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, and is worth 2 participation points.

1. Name some environmental problems that may be caused by population growth from the movie.

2. What was the size of the world’s population at the time the movie was made? What do the United Nations projections for future population growth look like?

3. In discussing the historical pattern of human population growth, one commentator says that the rapid increase of the past few hundred years is due to “controlling death rates.” Based on your understanding of the exponential model of population growth, what other ways could the observed pattern arise?

4. What parallels are there in the movie’s discussion of overseas farmland investment and the USSR/Aral Sea case study we covered in class?

5. How are population growth and genocide related? (as discussed in the movie).

6. How are literacy rates and population related? What example is used in the movie?

7. How many stars would you give the movie? (check one) __1   __2  __3  __4  Why?