

The Anthropocene Golden Spike: The Age of Humans

Final Exam – 14 May 2020

Each part of the final exam is worth 50% of the final exam grade; both parts are to be completed without help from others. Both parts are related to the literature. *Nature* published a comment by Ellis et al. (2016), that was followed by two correspondence notes – from Zalasiewicz et al. (2017) and Castree (2017). All three articles are part of this exam. Correspondence notes are comments on previously published papers.

Your grade will depend on i) how well you evaluate the arguments and the evidence in the literature, and ii) how clearly you express yourself in writing. Read the entire article and then begin answering the questions. Read carefully, organize your thoughts, print your answers concisely, and avoid vague statements. Please keep in mind the notion of geological reasonableness when answering the questions. Type your responses. Edit carefully. Write well. Develop your own sense of the arguments presented in the paper and encapsulate the ideas clearly and completely. Write concisely, and carefully; keep your answers limited to three or fewer, single-spaced pages with a font size no smaller than 10 points. I will be available for questions related to this exam from 8:00–10:00 AM on the Thursday; just Zoom over to <https://vsc.zoom.us/j/374527925> if you have any questions or want to talk.

Part 1 of the Exam

- Read Ellis et al. (2016).
- Answer all questions on final exam Worksheet #1.
- Both documents will be available on Canvas by Tuesday evening, 12 May 2020.
- Complete Worksheet #1 and submit it as a .pdf file via Canvas by 9:00 AM Thursday, 14 May 2020.
- You must submit Worksheet #1 by 9:00 AM.

Part 2 of the Exam

- Read Zalasiewicz et al. (2017) and Castree (2017). Both articles are highlighted in green.
- Answer all questions on final exam Worksheet #2.
- Both documents will be available on Canvas by Thursday morning, 14 May 2020 at 9:00 AM.
- Complete Worksheet #2 and submit it as a .pdf file via Canvas by 10:00 AM Thursday, 14 May 2020.
- You have only one hour to complete Part 2.
- You must submit Worksheet #2 by 10:00 AM.

Thank you for working with me this semester.

Good luck on all of your finals.

Be safe during the summer.