

# **Homework #1**

**Due by Wednesday, January 25 at 12:10pm (start of class)**

*Note: All future assignments will be posted on the class website at [www.katefollette.com/teaching/ast101s12/homework](http://www.katefollette.com/teaching/ast101s12/homework) and will not be printed. It is your responsibility to visit the course site regularly and to check your e-mail for updates and announcements, as well as to keep track of all assignments and due dates.*

*This homework has a number of individual pieces that will help you get set up for the course. All except the last two (Parts VI-VII) are **required**. You will not receive full credit for this homework until you've completed all required pieces.*

## **Part I : Self Introduction**

Send an e-mail to your instructor at [kabrutlag@pima.edu](mailto:kabrutlag@pima.edu). *Be sure to include AST101IN in your subject line.* Address each of the following in your introduction:

- (1) Tell me who you are: Where are you from and what do you like? What's most important to you? Is there anything that I should know about you?
- (2) Tell me why you're taking this class.
- (3) Tell me which science and math courses you took in high school and which you've taken in college. Do you intend to take any more science courses after this one?
- (4) What is your greatest concern about this course?
- (5) Do you have an alternate e-mail address (other than your Pima address) that you check more often and would prefer that I send course announcements to?

## **Part II: "Good Science is..."**

In a separate e-mail to your instructor, again with an appropriate subject line that contains "AST101IN", complete the following:

- (1) List three characteristics that you believe constitute "good science". Number them 1-3 beginning with the characteristic that you feel is the most important. Use complete sentences for each. If you can think of a relevant example for any of the characteristics that you list, give that as well.

*IMPORTANT: I am merely asking for your current opinion regarding what makes good science. Do not use the internet or your textbook to find answers. Simply tell me what you THINK makes "good" science as opposed to "bad", "unreliable" or "pseudo" science. Three characteristics in complete sentences will receive full credit for this portion.*

- (2) Next, write one paragraph regarding whether or not you think science is important to you personally and to society in general and why.

- (3) Finally, write a paragraph with your thoughts on the following question: “Is science dangerous? Why or why not?”.

### Part III: Mastering Astronomy

1. Go to [www.masteringastronomy.com](http://www.masteringastronomy.com)
2. Select “Student”.
3. If you purchased a copy of the Custom Textbook there should be a cardboard insert inside that has a Mastering Astronomy access code in it. Enter this access code and skip to step #6. If you chose not to purchase the textbook, you will need to purchase an access code online. **Mastering Astronomy is a required portion of the course, therefore you must obtain an access code.** Contact me if this is a problem.
4. If you’ve chosen “No, I need to purchase access online now” select :”Bennett/Donahue/Schneider The Cosmic Perspective, 6e (6<sup>th</sup> edition)” as your course textbook (should be the first option). If you already have an access code, skip to step 6.
5. Decide whether or not you would like to purchase the “eText” for the Cosmic Perspective, which is an additional ~\$35. Note: the eText is NOT required, but may be a good resource if you’ve chosen not to purchase the textbook.
6. Agree to the Pearson License Agreement and Privacy Policy
7. If you do not have a Pearson Education account from a previous class, click “No”. You will be prompted to create a Login name and password. This is also where you will enter your Access Code if you already had one (from a cardboard insert in the textbook).
8. Enter your first and last names and the e-mail address that you would like associated with your mastering astronomy account. This does not necessarily have to be your @pima.edu address.
9. Select “United States” as your school location and enter the zip code 85709.
10. Select the option “Pima College Downtown” from the dropdown menu.
11. Select your own security question and answer.
12. You will then be brought to a secure website where you can pay by credit card or PayPal.
13. You should receive a confirmation that your account has been set up.
14. Log in to Mastering Astronomy from the main page. You should see a “My Courses” option.
15. Enroll in our specific course: “AST101INS2012”. If you purchased a version of the textbook other than the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, contact me. Otherwise, everything should work fine.
16. Log into our course and read the “Welcome” announcement, which explains how assignments are graded
17. Once you’ve read the welcome statement, select "Assignments" from the top menu. You will see an “Introduction to Mastering Astronomy” option. This is an optional tutorial that will familiarize you with using Mastering Astronomy. It is not graded, however I encourage you to at least open it and try a few before you attempt the graded assignment (“Mastering Astronomy #1”). Because it is

ungraded, you should feel free to intentionally choose incorrect answers to familiarize yourself with what happens. Make sure to also investigate the “hint” function.

#### **Part IV: Quantitative Literacy Survey**

Go to the website [https://ua.datstathost.com/OSS-Collector/Survey.ashx?Name=QL\\_Spring2012\\_pre](https://ua.datstathost.com/OSS-Collector/Survey.ashx?Name=QL_Spring2012_pre) and complete the survey that you find there, or contact me for an alternate assignment before Monday, January 23rd if you would rather not participate in the study described on the first page. You will receive full credit for this portion if you complete the online questionnaire, regardless of whether or not your answers are correct. Note that this study has been designed with considerable effort to help make classes like this one better, so please take your time and answer the questions carefully. It should take you 20-30 minutes to complete.

#### **Part V: Office Hours Doodle Poll**

There are several options for office hours this semester, and I would like to choose the time that works best for the largest number of people. Complete the poll at the website below by choosing all of the times that would generally work for you (note: you are not “promising” to attend every week. You’re simply saying that if you needed help on an assignment, project or lab you would generally be able to attend at this time).

<http://www.doodle.com/ec437q37nwm7dph9>

#### **Part VI: Sign Up for Dropbox to get Lecture Slides (Optional)**

I will not be posting my lecture slides on the course website, however I will be setting up a shared class folder through the Dropbox program. This program will automatically download any lecture slides that I post to the shared class folder to your personal computer and will also allow you to access them from any computer with an internet connection through the Dropbox website. You can sign up for Dropbox through my personal link here: <http://db.tt/2Mh7Diy>. Once you’ve installed the program (or if you already have an account), just e-mail me to tell me that you’ve done so and I’ll invite you to the shared folder. This is entirely optional, but keep in mind that most of your colleagues last semester who didn’t sign up for it reported that they wished they had.

#### **Part VII: Read “Tips” from Your Colleagues Last Semester (Optional)**

All of my students last semester posted tips specifically for you guys here: [www.katefollette.com/teaching/tips/general](http://www.katefollette.com/teaching/tips/general). I recommend that you check them out.