

# **Homework #1**

**Due by Monday, September 11 at 5pm**

*Note: All future assignments will be posted on the class website at [www.katefollette.com/teaching/ast112f17/homework](http://www.katefollette.com/teaching/ast112f17/homework) and will not be printed. The course Moodle site will only be used to distribute announcements, MasteringAstronomy links, and grades*

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

## **Part I : Self Introduction (10 points)**

Send an e-mail to your instructor at [kfollette@amherst.edu](mailto:kfollette@amherst.edu). *Be sure to include AST112 in the subject line and in all future emails you send to me.* 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 you'd like me to 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?

## **Part II: Purchase Text and Mastering Astronomy (0 points)**

*You are required to purchase two things for this course.*

- 1) *Lecture Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition which as of late August costs \$35 on Amazon.*
- 2) *A Mastering Astronomy access code, which is cheapest when purchased with the e-text for the optional course textbook *The Cosmic Perspective: Solar System, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*. 6 months of access to both Mastering Astronomy and the e-text should be \$59.95. 18 months of access to just Mastering Astronomy (without the e-text) should be \$62.95. Instructions for how to purchase Mastering Astronomy and join the course are in the document attached to this homework.*

*\*\*Note that if you prefer to purchase a paper textbook you should NOT purchase from Amazon, because it will not be packaged with a Mastering Astronomy access code. The ISBN for our textbook when packaged with Mastering Astronomy access is **ISBN-10: 0134583140**. It's available from Pearson for \$131.47. Alternatively, you can purchase a used copy from another vendor, but then you will have to purchase Mastering Astronomy separately.*

## **Part III: Mastering Astronomy Homework #1 (30 points)**

Once you've purchased Mastering access and linked your accounts, you should always be able to access MasteringAstronomy Assignments via our course Moodle site. To start, log into our course on Moodle and select "MyLab and Mastering Tools", then select "Welcome

to MasteringAstronomy”. This takes you to a course homepage of sorts, but not a terribly useful one. Click on the “Announcements” tab and read the “Welcome” announcement, which explains how assignments are graded. I will be posting course announcements through Moodle rather than on this page from here on, so this is probably the last time you’ll have to access this Mastering homepage.

Once you’ve read the welcome statement, go back to the Moodle “MyLab and Mastering Tools” and select “Mastering Assignments”. Click on the Homework 1 link and complete it. Note that the first two exercises (“Welcome to Mastering Questions” and “Introduction to Vocabulary, Labeling, Sorting and Ranking Questions”) are optional but highly recommended tutorials that will familiarize you with using MasteringAstronomy. Because they are ungraded, you should feel free to intentionally choose incorrect answers to familiarize yourself with what happens. Make sure to also investigate the “hint” function. I encourage you to at least open the exercises and try a few questions before you attempt the graded portion of the assignment, which is due at 5pm on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> together with the rest of this homework.

#### **Part IV: Quantitative Literacy Survey (10 points)**

Go to the website <https://tinyurl.com/QuaRCS-F17> and complete the survey that you find there, or contact me for an alternate assignment before Thursday, September 7 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 15-20 minutes to complete.

#### **Part V: Read “tips” from your colleagues who have taken similar courses with me before (Optional)**

Students from my previous intro courses have posted tips specifically future students here: [www.katefollette.com/teaching/tips/general](http://www.katefollette.com/teaching/tips/general). I recommend that you check them out.