

“Prelab” #1 – 40 points
See items below for due dates

Note that unlike future assignments for this course, this is not really a prelab in that it includes a number of individual pieces that will allow you to get set up for the course and does not involve any of the material that you will encounter in Lab #1. The pieces have different due dates, listed below.

A note on late additions to the course: *If you enroll in AST112 late, all of the following and Mastering Astronomy Homework #1 are Due by five days after you add the course.*

Part I: Read the Syllabus (10 MA points)– Due by Sunday, September 9

Please read the syllabus thoroughly. I’ve found in previous years that almost all logistical questions that students e-mail me about can be answered by consulting the course syllabus. I’ve made every attempt to clearly and thoroughly lay out everything that you need to know to succeed in the course in this document. Your first Mastering Astronomy assignment includes a 10 point syllabus quiz with multiple choice questions about some of the most crucial guidelines (don’t know what Mastering Astronomy is? Check out the syllabus!). Please read the syllabus before completing Mastering Astronomy #1.

Part II: Mastering Astronomy and E-text Setup - Due by Sunday, September 9

1. Go to [Pearson Mastering Astronomy webpage](#).
2. Under **Register Now**, select **Student**.
3. Confirm you have the information needed, then select **OK! Register now**.
4. Enter **Course ID** AST112FALL2018 and choose **Continue**.
5. Select **Create** and complete the required fields to create an account.
6. Select an access option. If you did not purchase a paper copy of the text (and indeed I recommend that you DON’T) *The Cosmic Perspective: Solar System, 8th Edition*, then you will need to purchase the eText. I recommend the 6 month Mastering + eText access option for \$59.95. Note that this is cheaper than buying Mastering Astronomy access alone for some silly reason.
 - Buy access using a credit card or PayPal account.
or
 - Enter the access code that came with your purchased paper textbook (if included – note many paper copies of the text do NOT come with Mastering access)
7. From the “You’re Done!” page, select **Go to My Courses**.

Once logged in to the course website, click on the “Announcements” tab and read the “Welcome” announcement, which explains how assignments are graded.

Note that Mastering Astronomy Homework #1 is due on Sunday, September 9 at 11:59pm.

Part III: Self Introduction (10 points) – Due by Wednesday, September 12 at 5pm

Send an e-mail to the course e-mail address (AmherstAST112@gmail.com) introducing yourself. 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 IV: Sign up (and show up) for a Meet and Greet (10 points) – Due by Wednesday, September 12 at start of class

Sign up for a 10min "meet and greet" with me. The poll to sign up for a time is at: <https://doodle.com/poll/ybsd6mbimaxhq22b>. If none of the remaining slots are at times when you can make an appointment, send an e-mail to AmherstAST112@gmail.com listing at least five one hour periods during the week when you are available.

Part V: Quantitative Literacy Survey (10 points) – Due by Wednesday September 12 at the start of class

Go to the website <https://tinyurl.com/QuaRCS-F18> and complete the survey that you find there. 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.

Part VI: Vote in the office hours poll (5 points)- Due by Wednesday, September 12 at the start of class

Fill out the poll to help decide my office hour times from among the three options: <https://doodle.com/poll/uyueu6v8skpmpahr>. Select the "if need be" option if you can make the time specified but don't anticipate utilizing them (e.g. because it's too far from a homework deadline).

Part VII: Pick up your clicker – Due by Wednesday, September 12 at the start of class

Pick up your clicker in Seely Mudd room 110. We will start using them to track participation on Wednesday, September 12.

Part VIII: Purchase Lecture Tutorial Text – 5 points for having in class by Monday, September 17

Purchase the text Lecture Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, 3rd edition, which as of late August costs \$35 on Amazon. Note that if you buy this text used, you want to be sure that there is no previous writing in it, as it is a workbook.

Part IX: 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. I recommend that you check them out.