Prelab #1 – 50 points

Unless otherwise indicated, all items described below are due by **Friday, September 6** at the start of class (1:00pm)

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.

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 1: Mastering Astronomy and E-text Setup (**5 points** for appearing in Mastering Gradebook before class on Friday, September 6)

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** *AST112F19* 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: 9th 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 8 at 11:59pm.

Part 2: Self Introduction (10 points)

Send an e-mail to the course e-mail address (AmherstAST112@gmail.com) introducing yourself with the subject line "ASTR 112 Introduction – [Your Name]". 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 what your major is or, if you're undeclared, which you're interested in exploring.
(4) Tell me which science and math courses you took in high school and which you've taken so far in college. Do you intend to take any more science courses after this one?
(5) What is your greatest concern about this course?

Part 3: Sign up (and show up) for a Meet and Greet (10 points)
Sign up for a 10min "meet and greet" appointment with me sometime in the first few weeks of the course. All of these appointments will take place in my Lab (NSC A120) NOT in my office. The poll to sign up for a time is at: https://doodle.com/poll/43dmhedpue3hn76g. 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 when you are available. **PLEASE WRITE DOWN THE TIME YOU SELECT AND PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR**. You will not receive a reminder, and if we have to reschedule because you don't show up, you'll lose half of the points for this part of the assignment.

Part 4: Quantitative Literacy Survey (10 points)
Go to the website https://tinyurl.com/QuaRCSLt-Pre 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 5: Complete the Group Formation Survey (5 points)
Go to the website https://forms.gle/dMq23FeshAy3EZx59 and complete the form there, which will collect some info about how you like to work in a group setting. We will be doing lots of group work in this class, and I will use your responses to this survey to form your lab groups.

Part 6: Pick up your clicker – **5 points** for having in class by **Monday, September 9**
Pick up your clicker in Seely Mudd room 110. We will start using them to track participation on Monday, September 9

Part 7: Purchase Lecture Tutorial Text – 5 points for having in class by **Wednesday, September 11**
Purchase the text Lecture Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, 3rd edition, which as of late August costs $37 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 8: Read the Syllabus
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 9 question 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 9: Read "tips" from your colleagues who have taken similar courses with me before (Optional)

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