

1. If you're already enrolled in this class, go to the OnCourse page for this course; if you're not yet enrolled, go to http://jsklensky.webspace.wheatoncollege.edu/Art_Spring20/art.html
2. From either of those, click on the links and
 - Read the Course Goals and Policies
 - Look through the Syllabus. Make a note of when assignments are due, projects are due, and exams will be given.
 - Read about homework, including the links on individual vs group assignments, suggestions for working in groups, and guidelines for problem sets
 - Look at my Daily Schedule to see my office hours, and other times I might be available if you ever need to see me outside of office hours.
3. Once you're enrolled in the course, go to OnCourse and make sure you can find the slides I show in class.
4. In order to get a feel for where each of you are coming from, and how to plan for the class as a whole, I'd like to get to know you a bit. I'd like to do this in two ways.
5. First: there is a questionnaire on OnCourse. Please fill it out – it will give me a feel for some specifics of what you've seen mathematically, amongst other things
6. Secondly, I'd like to get a broader picture of you, so: e-mail a letter to me (you can also write it as an essay, if you feel more comfortable with that.) In this letter, I'd like you to discuss the following. (This will be graded, but only on whether or not you addressed everything I asked you to.)
 - The main focus of the letter is to tell me why you are choosing to take this class, what your past experiences of math have been, and to give your reactions to the course goals and policies and the homework guidelines. You may focus on one or two specific events in your past, or a couple points in the Goals and Policies, or you may write a more broad reaction. Feel free to discuss your interest or nervousness about something, or to react in some other way.
 - You should respond in some depth, so that I really get a sense of where you're coming from. Be honest – there's no need to “suck up”:)
 - Also, briefly discuss an academic strength or interest of yours.
 - At some point (above the beginning of the letter, below the signature, or in the midst of the letter) tell me what name you'd like me to use for you. If you think I might have trouble pronouncing it, give me some clues here. I'd also like to know what your hometown is, just for fun.
 - Also some place above, in, or below the letter, I'd like you to tell me your major(s) (and minor(s), if you have one or more) – or what majors and/or minors you're leaning toward.
7. Please fill out the on-line questionnaire as soon as possible but no later than Wednesday 1/30. You may hand the letter in to me at the beginning of class Monday 1/27 (or any time before) or e-mail it to me before class on 1/27.

The purposes of both parts of this assignment are to

1. help me get to know you better as an individual: what are your past experiences in math? What are your hopes, fears, aspirations for this class?
2. ensure that you've read the policies and goals and homework guidelines, that you are in the right class for you, that you understand what you need to do to succeed, what I expect, and the specific course policies (including how the Honor Code applies in this class).

Thus please do fill out the on-line questionnaire (it *is* part of this assignment), and in the letter, please be focused, support your feelings and reactions with past experiences (a particularly good, bad, or quirky past class perhaps). Also please pay attention to making it readable for me: I care about spelling, phrasing, grammar and clarity just as much as anybody else, and more than many.