

Preliminary essay

Math 309

Fall 2016

Deadline: 12N Friday 2 September

Late deadline: Late work won't be accepted.

Writing

- Compose an essay of **200-400** words that responds to the prompt below.
- Using *concise and clear sentences*, incorporate symbols and illustrations into your text. Have an audience in mind. Focus on *developing* an explanation or argument. Using specific examples to illustrate a general idea or claim is often a helpful tactic. What are you trying to establish and how are you're trying to establish it?
- Submit **double-spaced** in hard copy.

Reductionism in science. Briefly describe what's meant by the claim that scientific thinking uses a reductionist approach to understanding the world. Illustrate your description with a particularly appropriate example. To what extent does the success of science stem from its use of reductionism? Are there phenomena or conditions to which a reductionist method is not suitable? What is it about those cases that defies reduction of the complex to the simple?