Honesty Policy on Take home Exams

All work on this exam that you submit under your name should be solely the results of your efforts. If you copy someone else's work and put your name on it, you are being dishonest. Anything that appears with your name must reflect nerve impulses that originated from your brain. I expect and require honesty from all my students. The penalty for dishonesty in class is automatic failure and a report to the Dean of Students Office.

Please read, sign, and date the statement below, and return with your exam paper. **Your exam will not be graded unless this statement accompanies the exam.**

**I have read and understand the policies regarding academic honesty as related to this course and the University. By signing this statement below, I affirm that I have neither sought nor received help from anyone in the completion of this examination and that the solutions presented here are solely the result of my efforts.**

Signature: Date:

Printed name:

**Part A. (50 points)** Please provide the following for the attached article (Take Bold Steps Beyond the Bounds of Earth):

1. Extract and clearly present the critical argument from the article in premise/conclusion format.
2. Analyze the critical argument using course concepts (HOS, etc.) to provide an assessment of the strength of the conclusion/argument.

Note: You may use other sources of information, i.e. internet, published articles, etc. to obtain background knowledge to better understand the article. However, you may not use other peoples’ analysis/critical arguments to develop solutions (see honesty statement).

Take Bold Steps Beyond the Bounds of Earth

By Peter Diamandis July 21, 2014

U.S. World and News Report

<http://www.usnews.com/debate-club/should-we-go-back-to-the-moon/take-bold-steps-beyond-the-bounds-of-earth>

The fact that we went to the moon with 1960s technology is extraordinary. That fact that we never went back is shameful. Should we send another mission to the moon? Absolutely. But it should be a private effort backed by financial support and incentives from the government.

A mission this complex requires the kind of cost efficiencies and risk-mindset found only in today’s commercial industries. It should make use of the most modern, cutting-edge technologies in modern consumer electronics, rather than obsolete components. Did you know that the Curiosity Rover that’s exploring Mars runs on a PowerPC microprocessor? That’s similar to the processor Apple used in its laptops back in 1997.

Such a mission should also be independent of the “start-stop-start-stop-cancel” cycle of government space projects. Time and time again we’ve seen the most audacious government ventures canceled because they take a decade to accomplish, and thereby span several election cycles, with Democrats canceling Republican initiatives and Republicans canceling Democratic initiatives. Consequently, nothing gets accomplished.

It is only with a commercial mindset and commercial technologies that we will achieve a long-term vision of space commercialization and industrialization. The systems pioneered by a company like SpaceX, with its Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon 2 spacecraft (which allows for propulsive landing), are perfect for going to the moon and beyond.

Furthermore, there has been much debate regarding whether we go back to the moon or focus our attention on Mars. The answer is we do both: Mars is a place where we can set up human colonies and essentially recreate the Earth’s biosphere, but the moon and near-Earth asteroids are critically important stepping-stones to the entire solar system.

As a precursor to humanity’s return to the moon, I’m very proud of our Google Lunar XPRIZE competition, which is offering $30 million in prize money (and up to $30 million in additional NASA contracts) to the first privately-funded team to land a robot on the Moon that travels 500 meters and sends back high-definition photos and videos. We will spark the creation of a cottage industry of exploration companies that will help bring down the cost of accessing the moon by 10 to 50 fold.

These next few decades represent the window in time when the human race is moving irreversibly off the Earth. Thousands of years from now, when humanity looks back, our generation will be remembered for the bold steps that took us beyond the bounds of Earth.

Konstantin E. Tsiolkovsky, the Russian scientist who is considered the father of modern day cosmonautics, famously said, “Earth is the cradle of humanity, but one cannot remain in the cradle forever.” It’s time for us to get out of the cradle and start exploring the boundless resources of space.