1086-C5-484   **Larry J. Gerstein*** (`gerstein@math.ucsb.edu`), Department of Mathematics, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3080. *A Course for Bridging the Gap.*

An "introduction to proofs" or "transition" course has several fundamental and overlapping objectives: increasing the mathematical maturity of the students, introducing the students to an assortment of concepts that are likely to be useful in subsequent courses, and boosting the students' abilities to construct coherent proofs that can be read and understood by others. To design and teach such a course effectively, the instructor needs to start with some serious contemplation of what is meant by "mathematical maturity." In the talk I will offer some thoughts about this important notion (and its opposite), and then I will go on to describe a course and some specific topics that I have found to be of particular value in enhancing that maturity and achieving the course's other objectives. (Received September 04, 2012)