Math 70 Extra Credit   **Name:** _____

Overcoming Obstacles   DUE: April 17, 2017

> **DIRECTIONS:** Watch the video "Overcoming Obstacles" at the link provided at your
> class website, and answer the questions below as you watch or after you finish watching. It
> would be a good idea to read through the questions first to know what you are listening
> for particularly. By the way, because this is a video of a lecture, some of the images don't
> come through as clearly as I'd like. If you'd like to see some of the images more clearly go
> to *mathsab.blogspot.com* and find the label on the right for the person you're interested in;
> they are labeled by last name.

1.   What are some reasons mentioned in the video that 19th century society was opposed
to women learning mathematics?

2.   For each of the following women, give the obstacles they had to overcome and state
the inspirations that caused them to desire to continue studying math.

Sophie Germain:

Sonya Kovalevskaya:

Mary Somerville:

see other side $->$

3.   Who are the other two women covered at the end of the talk? Tell me something that stood out to you about one of them.

4.   What in this video most caught your attention or surprised you or interested you and why?

5.   As you've seen in this video, in the 1800s it was nearly impossible for a woman to get an education. It was also very difficult for men from poor backgrounds to get an education. In the U.S. we provide free, *mandatory* education. What are your thoughts on this when you consider the lack of access in earlier centuries to people who really wanted an education compared with the amount of complaining that many people do today about having to go to school? Is education helpful to people? Is it helpful to society? Do we take it for granted because it's free? Is it really "free?" Should we *require* everyone to have a K-12 education like we currently do? Does mandatory education inspire people or does it turn them off to learning? What do you think about some of these issues?