You may work on the problem set in groups; however, the final write-up must be yours and reflect your own understanding. In all these exercises assume that $k$ is an algebraically closed field and $R$ is a commutative ring with unit.

**Problem 0.1.** A polynomial is completely reducible if it is a product of linear terms. Prove that the locus of completely reducible polynomials of degree $d$ in $n+1$ variables in $\mathbb{P}^{(n+d)-1}$ is a projective variety. Similarly, prove that polynomials that are $d$-th powers of linear forms $(L^d)$ form a projective variety. Prove that this variety is the $d$-th Veronese embedding of $\mathbb{P}^n$.

**Problem 0.2.** Let the dual projective space $\mathbb{P}^{n*}$ denote the space of hyperplanes in $\mathbb{P}^n$. Show that the universal hyperplane $\Gamma = \{(H, p) : p \in H \} \subset \mathbb{P}^{n*} \times \mathbb{P}^n$ (i.e. the pairs consisting of a hyperplane and a point contained in that hyperplane) is a projective variety. Prove, in fact, that it is a hyperplane section of the Segre variety $\mathbb{P}^{n*} \times \mathbb{P}^n \subset \mathbb{P}^{n^2+2n}$. What is its dimension? Let $X$ be a projective variety. Prove that the universal hyperplane section of $X$ defined as $\Gamma_X = \{(H, p) : p \in H \cap X \} \subset \mathbb{P}^{n*} \times \mathbb{P}^n$ is a projective variety. Calculate the dimension of $\Gamma_X$ in terms of the dimension of $X$ and $n$.

**Problem 0.3.** Let $\mathbb{P}^{(n+d)-1}$ denote the parameter space of hypersurfaces of degree $d$ in $n+1$ variables. Show that the universal hypersurface $\Omega_d = \{(F, p) : F(p) = 0 \} \subset \mathbb{P}^{(n+d)-1} \times \mathbb{P}^n$ is a projective variety. What is this variety when $d = 1$? Calculate the dimension of $\Omega_d$.

**Problem 0.4.** For this problem assume that $k = \mathbb{C}$. We say that a hypersurface defined by a polynomial $F = 0$ is singular at a point $p$ if 

$$F(p) = F_{x_0}(p) = \cdots = F_{x_n}(p) = 0$$

$F$ and all its first order partial derivatives vanish at $p$. Prove that a quadratic polynomial in $n+1$ variables is singular if and only if the determinant of the associated symmetric matrix is zero.

**Problem 0.5.** Show that the locus of homogeneous polynomials of degree $d$ in $n+1$ variables that have a singular point is a projective variety. Show that it has codimension one in the space of all polynomials of degree $d$ in $n+1$ variables. Hence, it can be described as the zero locus of a single polynomial in $(n+d)$ variables. Show that if $d = 2$, then the degree of this polynomial is $n+1$. Challenge: What is the degree of this polynomial for arbitrary $d$?

**Problem 0.6.** Show that a general hypersurface of degree $d > 2n - 3$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$ does not contain any lines. Generalize this statement from lines to linear spaces of higher dimension.