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This talk will provide an introduction to the study of *Weyl group multiple Dirichlet series*, Dirichlet series in several complex variables associated to a root system Φ . Along with covering background and motivational material, we will discuss the role that “twisted multiplicativity” plays in the definition of the coefficients and a conjectured connection to metaplectic Eisenstein series. Further, we will give a general sense of some algebraic combinatorics that can be used to obtain results in this field. The specifics for root systems of Type C will be discussed in Part II. (Received August 19, 2008)