

MATH/STAT 414 Introduction to Probability Theory

Syllabus, Fall 2009

Instructor: Jianping Sun Office Hours: M W F 03:30pm-04:30pm
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Lecture: M W F 02:30 pm - 03:20 pm, 011 Life Science.

Required Text: Probability and Statistical Inference, 8th edition. By, R.V. Hogg, and E.A. Tanis. Pearson Prentice Hall.

Web Page: We will use ANGEL (<https://cms.psu.edu>) as our course webpage.

Prerequisites: MATH 230 or MATH 231.

Course Coverage: Most sections from Chap. 1 to Chap. 5 will be covered.

Required Work: The required work for the course will consist of weekly homework assignments, two in-class midterms and a final exam.

Grading: The final course grades will be based upon:

Homework	25%	Due every Friday before class.
Midterm 1	20%	Tentative date: Friday, Oct. 2nd.
Midterm 2	20%	Tentative date: Friday, Nov. 6th.
Final Exam	30%	TBA (during the week Dec. 14 - 18).
Attendance	5%	(be assessed via random in class quizzes)

The lower cut-off points for the grades are:

F	D	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
0	58	65	70	75	80	85	90	94

Course Policies:

- **Homework:** There will be 12 weekly homework assignments. **Homework is due every Friday in class before lecture. No late homework will be accepted for any**

reason. If you cannot be in class on Friday, you are encouraged to turn in your homework early or have a friend turn it in for you. Please staple your paper sheets before hand in!

Your work will be evaluated on the method of solution and the ability to apply concepts, rather than the numeric answer to the problem. As the numeric answers to some homework questions may be found at the end of the book, **you will not receive credit unless you show your work!** At the end of the semester, the lowest two homework grades will be dropped.

The homework can be discussed with your fellow classmates. However, each student must turn in his/her own work, and in no case is it ever acceptable to simply copy directly from another person's work. Some of the homework problems will be included in the exams directly. This is intended to reward those who are conscientious about making sure they can solve all of the homework problems.

- **Midterm Exams:** There will be two midterm exams on dates to be announced. The midterms will take place in class on Fridays and there will be no homework assignments due during weeks in which midterms occur. These exams will be closed-book, but you are allowed to bring one, 8.5×11 (letter size), double-sided formula sheet.

No make-up exams will be given. However, in the rare case of serious illness, injury, or death in the family, the points for the missed exam may be regained by a different weighting of the other exams. In such situation, the student must inform the instructor **before the exam date**, and provide the corresponding **proof of his/her absent reason.** Otherwise, the student will receive a zero for the missed exam.

- **Final Exams:** The final exam will be **comprehensive**, and will take place at the registrar-designated time and place during the week of Dec. 14-18. As the midterms, the final will be closed-book, but you are allowed to bring one, 8.5×11 (letter size), double-sided formula sheet. **No rescheduled final exams will be allowed except for those mandated by the Penn State registrar because of conflicts.** This means that you must attend the final exam and should under no circumstances make end-of-semester travel arrangements before knowing your final exam schedule. If you have a university-approved conflict with any of the exams, you must let me know **at least one week before the exam.** A conflict exam will be scheduled to take place just before or just after the regularly scheduled exam.
- **Attendance:** Attendance to each class meeting is required and beneficial. Students are responsible for all announcements and supplements given within any lecture and/or via course email.
- **Others:** Please turn off the cell phone during the class. If you must leave early, please sit in the row nearest the door, and please leave quietly. Cheating will not be tolerated, and will be punished in accordance with University guidelines.

Important Dates:

- Add & Drop: Aug. 24 - Sep. 2
- Late Drop: Late drop deadline is scheduled as Nov. 13.
- Final Exam Conflict: Sep. 28 - Oct. 18

Integrity: All Penn State and Eberly College of Science policies regarding academic integrity apply to this course. See <http://www.science.psu.edu/academic/Integrity/Policy.html> for details.