

Syllabus STAT/MATH 414 (Spring 2014)

Introduction to Probability Theory

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Office Hours: Wed: 4:00-5:00pm, Thu: 11:00am-12:00pm

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Office Hours: Wed: 1-2pm, Thu: 3-4pm

Class Times: *Section 2:* Tuesday/Thursday 9:45am-11:00am in **101 Alt-house**

Textbook: *A First Course in Probability* by Sheldon Ross, Ninth Edition, Prentice Hall.

Targeted Coverage: Most sections from Chapters 1 through 8.

Course Websites: <http://www.stat.psu.edu/~mharan/414/414.html> and
Angel website: cms.psu.edu (please bookmark these).

Final Course Grades will be based on (note the change as of January 16, 2014):

Weekly homework: 20%.

Two midterm exams: $20\% \times 2$. *IMPORTANT: The midterms will be given on Thursday evenings 7-9pm February 20th and March 27th.*

Comprehensive final exam: 40%.

Homework grading: Five problems will be selected for grading each week after submission. Each homework counts for 40 points: 5 each for five selected problems and 15 for completing the remaining *non-graded* problems. You will not receive full credit unless you show your work when solving each problem. You may discuss them but they must be written up independently.

Computing: To supplement your understanding of concepts, I may assign problems for you to do using the statistical software R which can be downloaded at no cost for any platform from <http://www.r-project.org/>.

Final Grades: Your final grade will be no lower than

A : 93-100%, A- : 90-92%

B+ : 87-89%, B : 83-86%, B- : 80-82%,

C+ : 77-79%, C : 70-76%

D : 60-69% , F : 0-59%

Course Rules:

1. No make-up exams will be given for ANY reason. If you miss an exam, you should provide a valid reason to the instructor; once the instructor AND the TA both approve your excuse, your missed exam score will be replaced by your score on the next mid-term exam.
2. Homework will typically be due on Fridays. Submit your homework in my mailbox by **11am** that day. You can submit it by 4:00pm on the same day with a 20% reduction in your score. No late homework will be accepted after that time under any circumstance. *You have 1 week to appeal a grade. No grade changes will be made 1 week after a graded homework or exam is returned.* Your two lowest homework scores will be dropped when computing your final grade, which should allow for missing homework due to unavoidable circumstances.
3. Early exams might be allowed, with prior arrangement, for students with direct conflicts due to other required university activities (chess team, field trip, Blue Band trip, etc.) The director of that program must provide a letter requesting that you be excused.
4. Students are responsible for all announcements and supplements given within any lecture and email.
5. Academic Integrity and Mutual Respect: All Penn State University, College of Science, and Department of Statistics policies regarding ethics, honorable behavior, and mutual respect apply in this course.
 - Penn State's Policies <http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/>
 - College of Science's Academic Integrity Policy <http://science.psu.edu/current-students/Integrity/Policy.html>
 - College of Science's Code of Mutual Respect and Cooperation <http://science.psu.edu/climate/code-of-mutual-respect-and-cooperation>
6. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807 or visit their website <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/>