MATH 329: Probability, Spring 2017
Monday, Wednesday 10:30-11:45 – JPSN, 102

Instructor:	**Taylor Arnold**
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Office:	Jepson Hall, Rm 218
Office hours:	Wednesday 16:00-17:00, Fridays 10:00-12:00, or by appointment

References:

There is no required textbook for this course; I will be giving handouts containing notes for all of the required material. If you enjoy having a secondary reference, I would suggest investing in either of these:

- Blitzstein, Joseph K., and J. Hwang. *Introduction to Probability*. CRC Press, 2014.
- Samaniego, Francisco J. *Stochastic Modeling and Mathematical Statistics: A Text for Statisticians and Quantitative Scientists*. CRC Press, 2014

The first has a wider coverage of probability topics, whereas the latter includes more applications in mathematical statistics.

Course Box folder:

You should have received an invitation to join two box folders. One will be read-only and contain course materials such as handouts, worksheets, and problem sets. The second will give you personal read and write access; this should be used for handing in all assignments. I will also use it to distribute graded work.

Attendance Policy:

You should aim to attend all class meetings, however I am fully aware that through the course of the semester various issues, such as illness, sports, and family emergencies, will prevent many of you from attending every class meeting. As long as you come prepared to most meetings of the course you will receive full credit for participation. Likewise, attending every class but continually failing to do the readings or engaging in the classroom activities will not earn full course credit.

Grades:

Your final grade will be determined by weighting your grades as follows:

- Exams, 80%
- Worksheets, 15%
- Participation, 5%

Within these components, each exam and worksheet is weighted equally. I want to make the grading extremely transparent, so these will all be graded on an 10 point scale. The final grade will be calculated by averaging all of your grades, rounding to the nearest integer, and reading off of the following chart:

Numeric Score	Final Grade
10	A
9	A-
8	B+
7	B
6	B-
5	C+
4	C
3	C-
2	D
1	F
0	F

Exams:

We will have four exams given during the semester. Exams will focus on the material in each section of the course, but due to the cumulative nature of the course material they will require understanding previous sections. There will be an in-class and take-home component of each exam. The in-class portion will take place on the following days:

- 2017-02-01 (Wed)
- 2017-03-01 (Wed)
- 2017-03-27 (Mon)
- 2017-04-17 (Mon)

Depending on the pace of the course, I may convert one or more exams entirely to a take-home format.

Worksheets:

During class meetings a worksheet will be handed out that includes problems to be worked through. In order to succeed in the course you should complete these prior to the next class meeting. Rather than formally handing them in, you must instead fill out an online questionnaire at some point prior to the next class meeting. I will not accept late submissions. The questionnaire can be found at:

`https://goo.gl/forms/jb354BP2ken1ZGnK2`

Computing:

While not the focus of this course, some simulations and numerical computations will arise that require the use of a programming language. For these, we will use the **R** programming environment. It is freely available for all major operating systems and is pre-installed on many campus computers. You can download it and all supporting files for your own machine via these links:

`https://cran.r-project.org/`
`https://www.rstudio.com/`

No prior experience with programming is assumed. You may use your own machine for simulations or any of the labs throughout Jepson.