MATH/STAT 394
Probability I
SUMMER QUARTER TERM A 2017

Instructor: Z. Richard Li
Office: C-14G Padelford
Office Hours: M 12:00-2:00 PM, in C14-G Padelford (may move to C-14A next door)
E-mail: lizehang@uw.edu

Course Meeting Times: M/W/F 8:30-10:40 AM
Location: JHN 026
Website: Through `Canvas`

TA: Anna Green
TA E-mail: greena64@uw.edu
TA Office Hours: TBD (See `Canvas` for update)

Course Description: This is the first quarter in a two (or possibly three) sequence in probability theory. This quarter we will cover probability axioms, combinatorics, conditional probability, statistical independence and discrete random variables. More specifically, we will cover chapters 2 to 4 and some materials from chapter 5 in the text although NOT necessarily in that order. You are encouraged to read and learn Chapter 1 by yourselves.

Course Textbook: The book for the course is *A First Course in Probability*, 9th edition, by Sheldon Ross. If you have another edition, it covers the same material, so it is likely to work too. but its your responsibility to get the homework problems from a copy of this edition.

Prerequisites: The official prerequisite is the calculus sequence, MATH 124, 125, and 126 (or equivalent). What you will need for this course is probably a subset of that. In particular, make sure you are fluent in basic differentiation and integration.

Course Expectations: Though attendance is not required, it is strongly recommended. Students may work together on homeworks, but may not copy solutions from other students or from other sources.

Communication: The course webpage (through `Canvas`) will serve as an archive of homework, lecture notes, and other materials. Announcements concerning course logistics will also be placed on the webpage.

Discussion Board: We will be using a `Canvas` discussion board through the course website. Please use this discussion board to ask questions about homework or other course topics.

Participation: There are a few aspects that I will assess your participation in the class.

- Ask questions in class and on the `Canvas` discussion board.

- Answer and explain questions from your peers on the `Canvas` discussion board.

- On each Friday, we will spend the second half of the lecture working on problems in class and I will encourage people to share their solutions.

- I have created a thread on the `Canvas` discussion board named *"Probability in the news"*. Everyone is welcome to post links to news articles that deal with probabilities. When you post a link, you should also comment on how the probabilities are handled in the news with a few sentences. At least one news post is required for getting the participation credits.

Evaluation and Grading:

- *Participation (10%):* As explained in the participation section, engaging in various class activities will be worth 10% of your grades.

- *Homework (40%):* There will be 5 homework sets due in class. NO LATE HOMEWORKS ACCEPTED.

- *Final (50%):* closed book, closed notes; in class final exam on July 19, JHN 026.

Policies According to University policy, the only valid reasons for missing an exam are serious illness, death in the immediate family and religious obligations provided prior notice if given. This notification can be given via e-mail to the instructor. Documentation will be required following your absence. Failure to provide sufficient documentation will result in your exam score being zero. If you earn a zero on the final exam or do not take the final exam, then your course G.P.A. will be zero.

Schedule The most up-to-date schedule by day is maintained on `Canvas`.