

Stat 134: Concepts of Probability, Spring 2021

Instructor: Adam Lucas

Lectures: MWF 11-12 online

<https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/99769085386> (lectures will be recorded and posted on bCourses/pages)

Email: alucas@berkeley.edu

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 12pm after class on same zoom link as class

TEXT: *Probability* by Jim Pitman. Students can view and download the text online at **SpringerLink** (campus network access required). An affordable paperback copy may also be purchased through this link.

GSI:

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Office hours of the GSIs will be posted on the webpage.

Prerequisites: Mastery of the material in Appendices 1-4 of the text, fluency with calculus (derivatives and integrals) in two variables, and – these are crucial – clear logical reasoning and strong problem-solving skills. Test yourself on some [practice problems](#).

Class website: The primary class website is <http://www.stat134.org/>. This will contain lecture notes and video links. B-courses is a secondary website for the class. I will post pre-lecture notes on b-courses/pages for you to download before class.

Piazza: There will be a student run Piazza site for this class. The top 10 student answers (i.e. students who respond to other student's questions) will get up to 1% extra credit added to their final grade total in b-courses after the curve.

Homework:

- Assignments are posted on the Homework tab [here](#). They are usually due Wednesday on **Gradescope**.
- Papers will be graded on a 0/1 scale. Each assignment will consist of 8 problems. A good attempt at 6 or more problems will receive the score of 1; anything else will get 0. Course staff will define what constitutes a "good attempt." We will be looking for reasoning and detailed work shown – it is assumed that you will show work or provide reasoning whether or not the question asks for it.

- Your **two lowest** homework scores will be dropped from the computation of the homework component of your final grade.
- No late homework will be accepted and cheating will not be tolerated. While you are encouraged to work with other people, you must write up your own solutions.

Quizzes:

There will be three long quizzes during the term, in section, on dates listed in the calendar below. There will be a convenient time for international students. You must take your quiz in the section in which you are enrolled. Students with DSP accommodations must contact Prof. Lucas to make arrangements as necessary.

Q1: Wednesday February 3

Q2: Wednesday February 17

Q3: Wednesday March 31

Your **lowest** quiz score will be dropped from the computation of the quiz component of your final grade.

Exams:

- Midterm 1: Friday March 5, during class time
- Midterm 2: April 23, take home midterm (details TBA)
- Final: Monday May 11 7-10pm.

Grading:

The final will clobber the first midterm but not the second midterm.

The max of:

- 10% Homework, 20% Quizzes, 20% Midterm1, 5% take home Midterm 2, 45% Final
- 10% Homework, 20% Quizzes, 5% take home Midterm 2, 65% Final

If you don't take the final exam you will not pass the class.

Your two lowest homework and your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Academic Honesty: Being an online class academic honesty is of particular concern. I will do everything I can to remove incentives for you to feel like you need to cheat. Please know that I take the Berkeley honor code very seriously and have years of experience catching cheaters. If we suspect someone of cheating, we reserve the right to give the student an oral quiz or exam and test if the student understands what they wrote.

Please familiarize yourself with UCB's Academic Honesty Policy (see the Center for Student Conduct website: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct>). I encourage you to discuss homework problems with other students and to work together, but copying is never appropriate. (You should never write down anything you don't understand!) I strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the definition of *plagiarism*, and to avoid engaging in it. **Violations of the USB's Academic Honesty Policy, including instances of plagiarism, will be reported to the University** and an appropriate penalty will be implemented. (This may range from a failing grade on an assignment to an "F" for the course, in addition to writing letters of reflection and apology to USB's administration.)

Resources

Quick Links

Homework: <http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~ani/s134s17/rec.html> The full list of assigned problems for the entire semester is posted at this link. There, you will also find helpful strategies for tackling the problems - I highly recommend you read through it at least once

Reading Guide: <http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~ani/s134s17/contents.html>

Support

The Student Learning Center (SLC) offers extensive support for Stat 134. I highly recommended that you enroll in the SLC's Adjunct Course for Stat 134 (Stat 198). Click [here](#) to learn more.

Students with Disabilities: Students needing accommodations should speak with me after class or during office hours and see <http://dsp.berkeley.edu> to learn about Berkeley's policy.