Introduction to Probability
STA 4321
Spring 2026

Instructor:

J. P. Hobert
204 Griffin Floyd Hall, 352-273-2990, jhobert@stat.ufl.edu

Class: T: 8:30-9:20am in Little Hall (LIT) 109 & R: 8:30-10:25am in Architecture Building (AH) 0423

Office Hours: TR: 1:00-2:15pm

Course Web Page:

`http://web.stat.ufl.edu/~jhobert/sta4321.html`

Required Text:

7th edition of *Mathematical Statistics with Applications* by Wackerly, Mendenhall, and Scheaffer

Prerequisites:

The prerequisite for this course is MAC 2313 (or MAC 3474) with a minimum grade of C.

Objective:

The objective is to introduce the students to the theory of probability. In particular, we will study counting rules, conditional probability, independence, additive and multiplicative laws, and Bayes rule. This is followed by a study of discrete and continuous random variables, their distributions, moments and moment generating functions, multivariate probability distributions, independence, covariance, distributions of functions of random variables, sampling distributions, and the central limit theorem.

Course Schedule:

We will cover the first 7 chapters of the textbook, spending approximately 6 lectures on each chapter.

Class Attendance and Make-up Exams:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

`https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx`

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, `https://disability.ufl.edu/`) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Exams:

Three exams will each count for 30% of the final grade. The exams are tentatively scheduled for February 12, March 12 & April 16.

Grading:

The usual 10 point scale (90% for an **A**, 80% for a **B**, ...) is tentatively adopted, but will most likely be loosened. Information on current University of Florida grading policies for assigning grade points is given at:

`https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx`

Teaching Assistant:

The Teaching Assistant for the course will be Rhitankar Bandyopadhyay (Office: 103C Griffin Floyd Hall, Email: r.bandyopadhyay@ufl.edu). Rhitankar will hold office hours from 10:00am-noon on Mondays & from 10:30-11:30am on Fridays.

Homework:

Mastery of the material presented in this course requires a great deal of practice. Several homework assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. Homework is worth 10% of the final grade. No late homework will be accepted.

Course Evaluation Process:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at `https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/`. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via `https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/`. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at `https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/`.