

**Introduction to Probability**  
**STA 4321 Lecture**  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. John Streese  
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Office Hours: LIT 423  
Mondays: Period 5 (11:45am - 12:35pm)  
Wednesdays: Period 7 (1:55pm- 2:45pm)  
Thursdays: Period 6 (12:50pm - 1:40pm)

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Teaching Assistant: Sai Veeresh Addala  
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Office Hours: ???  
TBD

Main Lecture:

MWF Period 8 Streese (3:00pm - 3:50pm) Little Hall 121

**Prerequisites** MAC 2313 or MAC 3474 (Calculus 3) with a minimum grade of C.

**Course Description** Theory of probability including: counting, conditional probability, independence, additive and multiplicative laws, Bayes' Rule. 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, central limit theorem.

**Course Goals** The following are broad goals that students taking STA 4321 will achieve upon successful completion of the course:

- Develop a solid conceptual understanding of fundamental probability principles, including sample spaces, events, independence, and conditional probability.
- Gain proficiency in applying common probability laws and counting techniques to model real-world situations and solve quantitative problems.
- Understand and work with discrete and continuous random variables, including probability mass functions, density functions, and cumulative distribution functions.
- Build the ability to compute and interpret key distributional characteristics, such as expectation, variance, and properties of standard probability distributions.

<b>Required Materials</b>	Mathematical Statistics with Applications, 7th edition by Wackerly, Mendenhall, Schaeffer. We will work through the first seven chapters of this text this semester. See the detailed calendar at the bottom of this syllabus to get an idea of the topics and our pace.
<b>Materials and Supplies Fee</b>	N/A
<b>E-Learning Canvas:</b>	<p>E-learning canvas, a UF course management system, is located at <a href="http://elearning.ufl.edu">elearning.ufl.edu</a>. Use your Gatorlink username and password to login. All course information including your grade, course homepage, syllabus, lecture outlines, office hours, test locations, mail tool, discussion forum, free help information, etc. can be accessed from this site. Your homework assignments will be uploaded directly to canvas.</p> <p>You are responsible for verifying that your grades are accurate. <b>You have until Monday at 5pm of finals week to contact your TA or instructor if you believe there has been a recording error. There is no grade dispute beyond this time.</b></p> <p><b>Please note:</b> Important course information is clearly communicated in this course guide, the STA 4321 homepage and links in Canvas, and announcements in lecture and discussion. Due to the volume of email received by the instructor and TAs, we cannot reply to each request for this well publicized information. If you cannot find your answer in the resources above, there is also a <b>Discussion Forum</b> available in Canvas. Please use this to post questions and to supply answers to your fellow students.</p>
<b>UF Academic Policies:</b>	This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please click <a href="#">THIS LINK</a> .
<b>E-mail</b>	All communication between student and instructor and between students should be respectful and professional. All official class communications will be sent only to the ufl.edu addresses. Students are responsible for acquiring, checking their email accounts regularly, and any class information sent to their ufl.edu account. Please be sure to sign your name to your e-mails.
<b>Lectures</b>	Lectures meet for in-person 50-minute lectures Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We will meet 3:00pm - 3:50pm in Little Hall 121. Attendance to the lectures is <b>strongly</b> encouraged, since missing just a few will put you behind in the class. There are also lectures where we will hold a graded quiz at the end of the period.
<b>Lecture Quizzes</b>	There will be six (6) in-class quizzes throughout the semester. You will not be able to use a programmable calculator, internet enabled device, notes, or talk to others during the quiz. The quizzes will be held the last 15 to 20 minutes of the class period. I will drop the lowest quiz, including a missing quiz (0 score) to alleviate the stress of missing class on a quiz day. Quizzes may only be made up with an excused absence (documented).
<b>In-class Exams</b>	<p>Mid-term exam dates are as follows:</p> <p>Exam 1: Wednesday, February 11, 2026</p> <p>Exam 2: Wednesday, March 4, 2026</p> <p>Exam 3: Wednesday, April 1, 2026</p> <p>Exam 4: Wednesday, April 22, 2026</p>

Exam Make-up: (TENTATIVE, won't be confirmed until about a week before)  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 5:10 PM - 7:05 PM

There will be four (paper and pencil) midterms throughout the semester. The midterms will consist of four to five free response problems.

These midterm exams will take place during our scheduled class time, 3:00pm - 3:50pm on MWF.

Each midterm exam is worth 20% of your final grade. No exam grades will be dropped. **There are no exam retakes.**

### **Exam Policy**

Please come to the exams prepared with pencils/mechanical pencils and your ID (UFID or other government issue ID). You may not use a programmable calculator or any internet-enabled device. You may not have your phone out at all during the exam. If you are using your phone during the exam, this will be considered academic dishonesty and the issue will be escalated to the appropriate channels. Respect other students and the proctor(s) while in the testing room. Any transcription errors that occur on your scantron or free response are there to stay after the exam. These errors include, but are not limited to: bubbling in the wrong form code, not bubbling in your answers, bubbling in the wrong section number, bubbling your answers in the wrong places, leaving answers blank, etc. Providing the wrong information such as your section number or name during an exam may greatly delay the grading of your exam. It is very important that you are aware of what is going on and following directions carefully so no materials are lost and that your exam is graded properly. An exam that is lost due to incorrect bubbling, failing to turn in an exam component before leaving the room, or attending the wrong room will not be the fault of the instructor nor the TA and you may forfeit your grade (receive no credit) for that particular exam.

### **Homework submission**

Homework will be uploaded to canvas directly and may be handwritten or typed. Homework assignments will not be accepted after the deadline. Submissions that are unreadable either due to poor handwriting or technological errors will receive a score of 0. It is important to preview your homework submissions after they are uploaded to ensure that your assignment is readable.

Please do not wait until the last minute to start your homework. There will be 1 (**one**) dropped homework grade at the end of the semester.

All assignments will have posted due dates and will follow our pace in the course. Please keep up with the due dates of assignments using canvas.

Personal computer issues are NOT a valid reason for any type of extension. The same is true to multiple assignments being due in other classes at the same time. Manage your time wisely.

### **Lecture Attendance**

Lecture attendance is strongly recommended, and sometimes required. Missing class frequently will place you behind on the material as the class moves quickly. Missing class means you will need to review the posted lecture notes later on your own to catch up. There are also six class periods where we will have a graded quiz assessment. See our calendar at the bottom of the syllabus for the exact dates.

### **Make-up Policy**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

All make-up work must be arranged with the course coordinator.

- **Exam Conflicts** There should be no scheduled conflicts with your exams as all midterms are taken during our 50-minute class period. For excused absences, please read the next section on make-up exams.

- **Make-up Exams** If you are participating in a UF sponsored event or religious observance, you may make up an exam only if you make arrangements with the course coordinator during the **FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE COURSE**. You must present documentation of a UF sponsored event.

**If illness or other extenuating circumstances cause you to miss an exam, contact the course coordinator in a timely fashion by email. Then, as soon as possible after you return to campus, provide the appropriate documentation to the course coordinator. You will be allowed to sign up to take a makeup exam at the end of the semester.** Generally, the make-up exam at the end of the semester is the only make-up exam that will be offered. I do not schedule make-up exams individually.

- **Exam retakes** Under no circumstance will a student be allowed to take an exam twice to improve their score. Do not sit for an exam sick and then expect to take a retake as well.

- **Make-up online HW:** There are no make-ups. Please reach out to me with plenty of advance notice if you're having online HW issues. Technical issues the day before the homework is due is not an excuse.

- **Make-up quizzes:** Missed quizzes can be made up if appropriate documentation is provided. You must e-mail your instructor your documentation and receive a confirmation from them to make-up the quiz - **no exceptions**. If you miss a discussion quiz, then you should contact your instructor, NOT your TA, as soon as possible to arrange a make-up quiz. I will offer four make-up quiz periods throughout the semester. You will need to attend the quiz make-up period that is directly **AFTER** the quiz you missed. You may show up at any time during the periods listed below, but please allow yourself at least 20 minutes for your visit. Remember, you can only make up a quiz with an excused absence. If you come to a make-up quiz session and do not provide the proctor with your e-mail confirmation from the instructor, you will be turned away from the session. Simply not going to class is not a reason warranting a make-up quiz. Leaving for vacation early during scheduled UF classes does not qualify as an excused absence. In this instance, you can use the provided quiz drop. **When you attend the make-up quiz period, you will need to show me your e-mail approval for which quiz number you are making up. Typically this means showing the contents of the approval e-mail on your phone to the proctor. You will not be permitted to take a make-up quiz without the course coordinator's approval.** These make-up quiz period dates are tentative and will be confirmed a week before these proposed dates and will be announced in class and via Canvas.

Session 1: Tuesday, Feb 3 10:40am - 11:30am Location: TBD

Session 2: Monday, Mar 2 1:55pm - 2:45pm Location: TBD

Session 3: Tuesday, Mar 31 4:05pm - 4:55pm Location: TBD

Session 4: Monday, Apr 20 4:05pm - 4:55pm Location: TBD

**Incomplete**

Students who are currently passing a course but are unable to complete the course because of illness or emergency may be granted an incomplete grade of I which will allow the student to complete the course within the first two weeks of the following semester. See the policy on <http://www.math.ufl.edu/fac/incompletes.html>. If you meet the criteria, you must contact the course coordinator before finals week to be considered for an I. An I only allows you to make up your incomplete work, not redo your work.

**Online  
Technical Issues**

For resolving technical issues relating to submitting homework assignments online, it is preferred that you do one of the following: Reach out to your instructor or TA with plenty of notice before the assignment deadline (in office hours or send a canvas message) or visit the helpdesk website (<https://it.ufl.edu/helpdesk/>). Any of us can help you troubleshoot your issues. These issues should not be used as an excuse the night before an assignment is due as you have advanced notice for assignments.

## Grading scheme

Homework (1 drop): 10%

Quizzes (1 drop): 10%

Midterm Exam Average (4 mid-term exams): 80% (20% each)

Your final grade will rounded within 0.5 and a letter grade will be given using the following grading scale. Please note Canvas rounds for you automatically and your CANVAS GRADE is your final grade for the course. Do not reach out to me asking to give you a "grade bump".

### Grading Scale

90.00-100 A	87.00-89.99 A-	84.00-86.99 B+	80.00-83.99 B
77.00-79.99 B-	74.00-76.99 C+	67.00-73.99 C	64.00-66.99 C-*
60.00-63.99 D+	57.00-59.99 D	54.00-56.99 D-	0-53.99 E

For those who take the S-U option: 67.00-100 S 0.00-66.99 U

Approval of the S-U option must be obtained from your instructor. The deadline for filing an application with the Registrar and further restrictions on the S-U option are given in the Undergraduate Catalog.

For a complete explanation of current policies for assigning grade points, refer to the UF undergraduate catalog:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**NOTE: We will not review disputed points at the end of the semester. All grade concerns must be settled before Monday 5pm of the final exam week.**

Please refrain from reaching out at the end of the semester to ask for your grade to be rounded up or to inquire about extra assignments or opportunities. There are hard cutoffs and deadlines for all assignments for a reason. Given the number of students in this course, it is not feasible to give out extra work/assignments once the semester has ended.

### Campus Resources

In addition to attending lectures, the following aids are available.

- Office hours are a great way to get help. Consider attending your instructor or TA's office hours. You can find these office hours listed on the canvas home page or in the syllabus.
- I will post updated class notes to our canvas page as we work through material.
- Our Canvas page has discussion boards that you can post questions to in order to get help from your peers, TA, and me.
- A version of your textbook may be available at Marston/Library West upon request.
- The Counseling Center provides a variety of resources for mental health and well-being to students as well. Go to <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

<b>Calculators</b>	Scientific and non-programmable calculators are permitted on exams, quizzes and homework. Calculators should be used in moderation when working through homework assignments. The use of programmable calculators or internet-enabled devices (cellphones, ipads, etc) are <b>not</b> permitted on quizzes and exams.
<b>Cell Phones</b>	Cell phones should be silenced (not on vibrate) before coming to class. Use (defined as having one physically in your hand) of a cell phone during a test or quiz will be considered contact with another person and will be viewed as a form of academic dishonesty because I cannot be assured in such a circumstance that you have not taken a picture of the test/quiz or sent a text message to someone. As a result, <b>all infractions will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.</b> Wait until after you have left the room and are finished with the test/quiz to use it.
<b>Other distractions</b>	While attending lecture, please ensure that your cellphone is on silent and that alarms are turned off. Please be respectful and attentive during lecture. Do not disturb those around you with excessive talking. You will be asked to leave the classroom if you are repeatedly disruptive during class.
<b>Students with Learning Disabilities</b>	<p>Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the <a href="#">“Get Started With the DRC”</a> webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.</p> <p>The DRC will provide a documentation letter via email to the course coordinator. This must be done as early as possible in the semester, <b>at least one week before the requested exam</b>, so there is adequate time to make proper accommodations. You must submit your ATR request on the DRC portal 4 business days’ prior to the exam date to be considered. <b>You may not delay taking an exam simply due to not having submitted the proper DRC exam request in time.</b> If a student requires additional time on exams or quizzes, they must schedule this to be taken through the DRC portal, no exceptions. Extra time cannot be provided otherwise. For online students, once your letter of accommodation has been received by your instructor, they will apply additional time to all applicable assignments in Canvas.</p>
<b>Diversity and Inclusion</b>	An excerpt from <a href="#">UF’s core values</a> reads, ”Excellence is only possible by including people who bring diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Our growing diversity enhances discovery and innovation. It is reliant on freedom and civility. It enriches the UF community. It is rooted in stewardship. It is the connective tissue for all of our Core Values.”.
<b>Academic Honesty Policy</b>	UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information at <a href="https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/">https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/</a> . If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## **In-Class Recording**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

## **Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## Important Spring 2026 Academic Dates and Deadlines

Classes Begin	Monday, January 12
Drop/Add	January 12 - January 16
Withdrawal deadline (full refund)	Friday, January 16
Withdrawal deadline (25% refund)	February 6
Drop deadline (no refund)	April 10
Classes end	Wednesday, April 22

### Holidays (no classes)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 19
Spring Break	March 14 - 21

Note: While some aspects of this course are permanent (grading scheme, attendance policy, course objectives, etc.) other details in the syllabus may change. Decisions made to benefit student learning, such as pushing back deadlines or eliminating certain topics/readings may impact the information on this syllabus. All important changes will be communicated clearly through Canvas.

## Course Schedule

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	January 12 (Read 1.1-1.6) 2.1-2.3	January 13	January 14 2.4 - 2.5	January 15	January 16 2.6
2	January 19 Holiday - No Class	January 20	January 21 2.7 - 2.8	January 22	January 23 2.19 - 2.10
3	January 26 2.11 - 2.13 Quiz 1 (2.7 - 2.10)	January 27	January 28 3.1 - 3.3	January 29	January 30 3.4
4	February 2 3.5 - 3.6	February 3	February 4 3.7 - 3.8	February 5	February 6 3.9
5	February 9 3.11 - 3.12 Quiz 2 (3.1 - 3.5)	February 10	February 11 Exam 1 (Ch. 2-3) HW 1 Due 11:59pm	February 12	February 13 4.1 - 4.2
6	February 16 4.3 - 4.4	February 17	February 18 4.5	February 19	February 20 4.6
7	February 23 4.7 Quiz 3 (4.1 - 4.6)	February 24	February 25 4.8 - 4.9	February 26	February 27 4.10
8	March 2 4.11 - 4.12	March 3	March 4 Exam 2 (Ch. 4) HW 2 Due 11:59pm	March 5	March 6 5.1 - 5.2

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	March 9 5.3	March 10	March 11 5.4 Quiz 4 (5.1 - 5.3)	March 12	March 13 5.5-5.6
10	March 16 Spring Break	March 17 Spring Break	March 18 Spring Break	March 19 Spring Break	March 20 Spring Break
11	March 23 5.7	March 24	March 25 5.8	March 26	March 27 5.9
12	March 30 5.11 - 5.12 Quiz 5 (5.5 - 5.8)	March 31	April 1 Exam 3 (Ch. 5) HW 3 Due 11:59pm	April 2	April 3 6.1 - 6.3
13	April 6 6.4	April 7	April 8 6.5	April 9	April 10 6.7 - 6.8
14	April 13 7.1 Quiz 6 (6.4 - 6.8)	April 14	April 15 7.2	April 16	April 17 7.3
15	April 20 7.5 - 7.6	April 21	April 22 Exam 4 (Ch. 6 - 7) HW 4 Due 11:59pm	April 23 Reading day (No class)	April 24 Reading day (No class)
16	April 27 UF Finals week	April 28 UF Finals week	April 29 UF Finals week	April 30 UF Finals week	May 1 UF Finals week

**Dates in the calendar are subject to change.**