Math/Stat 394 B&C Course Information

Summer Quarter 2014
Probability I

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<tr>
<td>Time and Place</td>
<td>Math 394 B: MWF 10:50-11:50am Electrical Engineering (EEB) 003</td>
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<td>Math 394 C: MWF 9:40-10:40am Electrical Engineering (EEB) 045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Andrey Sarantsev</td>
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<td>Instructor’s Office</td>
<td>Padelford Hall (PDL) C552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor’s Web Page</td>
<td><a href="http://www.math.washington.edu/~ansa1989/">http://www.math.washington.edu/~ansa1989/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor’s Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ansa1989@math.washington.edu">ansa1989@math.washington.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>Tue 12-2pm, Wed 1-5pm in my office, or by appointment</td>
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**Syllabus.** This course covers basic probability.
5. Common discrete distributions: Bernoulli, uniform, binomial, geometric, Poisson.
6. Common continuous distributions: Gaussian, exponential, uniform, Gamma.

**Prerequisites.** Math 124/5/6 or Math 134/5/6, grade 2.0. Math 324 and 327 recommended.

**Textbook.** Sheldon Ross. A First Course in Probability. You are welcome to buy older editions; you do not necessarily need the newest one. I will be posting homework assignments (complete formulations of problems) on the course web page, and even for the problems taken from the book, I will provide a complete statement of these problems, without referring to the numbers of problems in the book. The course covers Chapters 1-4 and pieces of Chapters 6-8.

**Quizzes.** There are 6 quizzes on Fridays of weeks 3-8. Each quiz is 25 minutes at the end of the lecture and contains 2 problems. It is closed book (no cheat sheet is allowed). However, you can use a calculator; see “Calculators” below. You can drop the lowest quiz score.

**Exams.** The Final Exam is on the last day of classes: Friday, August 22. It is cumulative (covers the whole course) and contains 5 problems. You are allowed a cheat sheet of the standard form: 8.5x11 inches, double-sided. You do not need to submit it after the exams. You can also use a calculator: see “Calculators” below.

**Homework.** Homework is due on Wednesday at 10pm. There are 8 assignments, weeks 2-9. Please drop your homework into the box at the door of my office. It will be hand-written (no Webassign). It will be graded by an undergraduate grader and returned next week, on Monday. You can drop the lowest homework score.
Grading Scheme. It is preliminary and is subject to change. The median will be 3.0–3.1.
- 4% each homework (except the dropped one)
- 10% each quiz (except the dropped one)
- 22% Final Exam

Grading Issues. Each quiz will be handed back to you the Monday after it was given. Re-grade requests can be made during the following week. The final will be graded during the break and will be available from the beginning of the Autumn Quarter.

Make-Ups. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason. In case of observance of religious holidays or participation in university sponsored activities, arrangements must be made at least 2 days in advance for quizzes and exams. You will be required to provide documentation for your absence. Make-up quizzes and the final will not be given. If you miss the final (or one of the quizzes) due to unavoidable, compelling, and well-documented circumstances, your quizzes (respectively, the final) will be weighted more heavily.

Calculators and Notes. Calculators which can do calculus (with “CALC” buttons or signs of d/dx near a button) are prohibited on quizzes and exams. This rule will be strictly enforced. Absolutely no exceptions will be made. However, it is useful to have a scientific calculator: it is recommended but not required. It must have trigonometric functions, like sin and cos, as well as logarithms and exponentials: ln and exp. In case of doubt, show your calculator to the lecturer before the first quiz, and preferably during the first week.

Registration. If you want to get into this course, but it is already full, try to get into other sections of this course which fit your class schedule. Also, during the first week you should check the online registration system all the time. The Time Schedule is only updated once a day, so for the most up to date information check the Enrollment Summary which is updated every time a change is made (link located in the top right corner of the Time Schedule). There is a lot of moving in and out during the first week, so there is a fairly good chance that you will be able to register in the usual way. You should also attend the lectures, even if you are not formally registered yet. If you do not succeed by the beginning of the second week, then probably you won’t be able to get an overload; I apologize for this. For more questions, please visit the Student Services Office at the Mathematics Department in Padelford C36.

Respect Issues. Disrespect will not be tolerated. As with all your life, you should treat others just like you yourself would like to be treated. Come to class on time (better never than late) and do not leave class early. If you can special circumstances where you need to arrive late or leave early, please contact me ahead of time and sit close to the door so that you do not distract your classmates when you enter or exit.

Do not use electronic devices during class. If you want to listen to your iPhone, send text messages to your friends, or play on your computer, then don’t come to class. This is completely disrespectful to me and your classmates. So please put away and turn off your electronic devices before class.

Finally, please show me respect when you have a question for me or when you send me an e-mail. You are well within your right to ask about homework and exam grading, but you will get nowhere if you are argumentative or rude. I will do everything I can to help you all succeed in
this course. I put in a lot of extra time and effort to help each of you in any way that I can. In fact, lecturing and having full responsibility for the whole course is not easy at all. This effort deserves and demands your respect! We should all be working together, not against one another.

**Class Philosophy.** There are two vital rules for success in this classroom.

1. **THE HOMEWORK IS THE KEY.** In mathematics, breakthroughs in learning rarely occur while reading the text or attending lecture. Mathematics is truly learned when you completely solve a problem yourself and understand the underlying concepts and tools so as to be able to apply them to related problems. The lecture, tutorial sessions, and office hours are valuable tools in guiding you towards learning and discovery, but ultimately the concepts and solutions must be absorbed, understood, and applied by you alone.

   Treat each problem as an exam question and ask yourself, “Can I answer this question without any help and do I understand the underlying principles that this problem conveys?” If your answer is no to either of these question (or if you hesitate at all), then you need more studying and practice.

2. **ASK FOR HELP.** Many students will hit a wall at some point during the course. Some can’t handle the large workload, while others find difficulty with specific concepts in the course. When these times arrive remember to ask for help. Come to me, ask your classmates for help, visit the math study center and/or visit the student counseling center. I have a lot of office hours: five hour each week! You can also send me emails; I usually answer them quickly.

   You are never more than a step away from getting help. These are just a few of your options. Please, please, please find help earlier rather than later. You are all smart enough to do well in this course; the question is whether or not you are determined enough.

**Attending Office Hours.** Even if you do not have any questions, you are very welcome to attend my office hours just to chat about life, expand the material of the course, find out something about me, etc. I will have additional office hours and/or review sessions before each exam, time TBA.

**Additional Resources.**

1. The Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE) holds drop-in tutoring sessions every weekday evening in Mary Gates Hall Commons. See [http://depts.washington.edu/clue/](http://depts.washington.edu/clue/) for more details.

2. This is the list of tutors: [http://www.math.washington.edu/Undergrad/tutorlists.php](http://www.math.washington.edu/Undergrad/tutorlists.php)

3. The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodations contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206-543-6450/V, 206-543-6452/TTY, 206-685-7264/FAX, or dso@u.washington.edu.

4. The Student Counseling Center provides academic skills workshop on a variety of topics including stress management, test anxiety, and time management to help you succeed at the University of Washington. If any of these is an issue for you, check out the schedule of workshops at [http://depts.washington.edu/scc/studyskills.html](http://depts.washington.edu/scc/studyskills.html).