
Stat (Math) 418 Section 1
Introduction to Probability
Fall 2007
Syllabus

1. TIME: MWF 10:10-11:00
2. PLACE: 60 Willard.
3. INSTRUCTOR, OFFICE and EMAIL ADDRESS: Dr. Arnold, 313 Thomas Building, SFA@STAT.PSU.EDU.
4. OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 9:30-11:00, 1:30-3:00.
5. TEXT: **A First Course in Probability** by Sheldon Ross (Seventh edition).
6. HOMEWORK: Required, assigned every class, due every Wed. (Problems from WFM due on Wed.). Numerical answers for most HW problems are in the back of the book. Homework will be averaged so that for most students doing the assignments, the HW average will be the highest of the 6 components going into the grade. Hence for a student who regularly does the HW, it will raise his or her grade.
7. TESTS: Three in-class open-book exams. Exams scheduled for Wed., Sept. 26, October 24 and November 28.
8. FINAL: Required. Open-book and in-class.
9. GRADING: The homework will count as 1 exam and the final will count as 2 exams, making a total of 6 grades which will be averaged to determine the students' final grades.
10. PREREQUISITE: Math 230 or 231 (multivariable calculus)
11. ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who cannot attend classes because of other commitments should drop the course. Students who miss a particular class are responsible for finding out what is covered, what the homework is, etc. Ross's book has many very nice examples, but some of the calculations are rather brief. I shall fill in some of the missing details, so class attendance is quite important.
12. CONTENT: We shall cover the first 443 pages in Ross.
13. APPROACH: Probability theory is very elegant and the proofs are quite nice. I shall outline many of these proofs in class. However, your work will focus more on solving story problems. In each chapter Ross has (story) problems and theoretical exercises. The Homework will be story problems and the tests will be story problems, not proofs. (One feature of probability is that quite simple sounding story problems are often quite easy to solve wrong and quite difficult to solve correctly.)
14. INTEGRITY: You may work on the homework together. However, students should not hand in identical answers (i.e. don't copy). Tests are to be individual work. Violations of this policy will be dealt with according to the procedures laid out on the ECOS web page.