STA 4321/5325
Introduction to Probability / Fundamentals of Probability
Section 5488/5513 (3 credit hours)
Fall 2010
Course Information and Policies

Objectives: The sequence of courses STA 4321–4322 (resp. 5325–5328) provides a formal and systematic introduction to mathematical statistics for students who have passed three semesters of standard undergraduate-level calculus and a first course in statistics. Major topics of STA 4321/5325 include the basic formal elements of probability, discrete and continuous random variables, multivariate distributions, distributions of functions of random variables, and fundamental limit theorems.

Prerequisite: MAC 2313 (or equivalent) and either STA 2023 or STA 3032

Course Web Site: `http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~tpark/STA4321`
Please check this site regularly! Most course documents and important information, including suggested homework exercises and readings, course schedule, course policies, and special announcements, will be posted there.

Instructor: Trevor Park, Griffin-Floyd 116C, `tpark@stat.ufl.edu`, 273–2973, Fax: 392–5175

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, Period 3 (9:35–10:25), Griffin-Floyd Hall, Room 100

Office Hours: Listed on course web site, and *subject to change*, particularly in the first few weeks of class. Special appointments with the instructor may be arranged by mutual agreement.

Required Textbook: Dennis D. Wackerly, William Mendenhall III, & Richard L. Scheaffer, *Mathematical Statistics with Applications*, **7th Edition**, Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning.

Homework: Complementary textbook readings and suggested textbook exercises will be posted as the course progresses. You are not expected to submit your answers to the suggested exercises, but you should solve all of them to thoroughly learn the material and best prepare yourself for exams. Answers to selected exercises can be found near the end of the textbook, and more complete solutions can be found in the optional Student Solutions Manual. Naturally, you will learn best if you attempt to solve the exercises before consulting the solutions. Though you are permitted to work with other students to solve the suggested exercises and to learn course material in general, please keep in mind that you will be assessed individually.

Quizzes: There will be approximately nine in-class quizzes, typically scheduled for Fridays. Their content will relate to concepts recently covered in lecture. Each will be announced in advance and take place during the final 5 to 10 minutes of class time. No books, notes or other references may be used during a quiz. All quizzes have equal weight for grading, but three of your quiz scores will be dropped — whichever three give you the highest final score in the course, as determined by the instructor. No make-up quizzes will be offered.

Exams: Four within-term exams are tentatively scheduled:

September 22 **October 13** **November 3** **December 1**

Exams will take place in class for the entire class period. Policies and coverage details will be announced prior to the date of each exam.

All within-term exams have equal weight for grading, subject to the following:

- one within-term exam score will be dropped (whichever improves your overall score the most)
- after this exam score is dropped, if your percentage score on the Final Exam is greater than your percentage score on one of the remaining within-term exams, it will replace one such percentage score (whichever improves your overall score the most)

Final Exam: **Friday, December 17, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM** (exam group 17A)
Details will be announced near the end of the semester. *Plan to take the exam on that date and at that time — no exceptions for personal travel will be granted!*

Course Grade: Grading will be based on a composite score: 15% quizzes, 60% within-term exams, 25% final exam.

Final letter grades will be assigned on the University's official grading scale that includes minus grades. Please familiarize yourself with the policy related to this scale and the grade point equivalences of letter grades. Details may be found on the following web page:
`http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html`

A grade of Incomplete (I*) is assigned only in rare cases, such as if you are absent with extenuating circumstances from the final exam. Extenuating circumstances require specific, official documentation (e.g. a signed excuse note from the Student Health Care Center). You are eligible for a grade of Incomplete only if you have completed a significant amount of the graded course work and you are currently passing based on that work (with a C or better), as determined by the instructor. If you find yourself unable to continue the semester before that point is reached, you should instead seek an administrative withdrawal. To receive a grade of Incomplete, CLAS policy requires you to sign an Incomplete Grade Contract with the instructor that specifies a plan and deadline for completing the course.

Lecture Attendance: Classroom lecture attendance is important, though ordinarily not strictly enforced. You are responsible for learning all material presented during lecture, and any topic covered in lecture is a potential quiz or exam topic (unless the instructor states otherwise). Please respect your classmates and avoid any circumstances or activities that may be distracting, insensitive, or harmful.

Please bring your UF ID card to lecture. You must do so on the date of any quiz or exam.

Academic Integrity: Please familiarize yourself with the Student Honor Code and Academic Honesty Guidelines outlined in your University of Florida *Student Guide* and at `http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php`.

Reasonable Accommodations: To request classroom accommodation, please be certain that you have made all necessary arrangements with the Dean of Students Office, and obtain from them documentation to submit to the instructor at the time of your request. A request must be made to the instructor *at least one week in advance* of the date for which the accommodation is requested.

This course information and policies sheet can be made available in alternative formats to accommodate print-related disabilities. Contact the instructor for information.