

STA 4321/5325
Introduction to Probability / Fundamentals of Probability
Section 5516/5534 (3 credit hours)
Fall 2010
Course Information and Policies

Objectives: The sequence of courses STA 4321-4322 (rep. 5325-5328) provides a formal and systematic introduction to mathematical statistics for students who have passed three semesters of standard undergraduate level calculus. STA 4321/5325 introduces the background in probability that is necessary to understand the classical statistical theory introduced in STA 4322/5328. Major topics 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 third semester calculus course). A well-prepared student should have taken an introductory statistics course, such as STA 2023 or STA 3032.

Course Website: <http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~kdkhare/STA4321.html>

Please check this site regularly. Most course documents and important information, including suggested homework exercises and readings, course schedule, practice session schedules, and special announcements, will be posted there.

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Lecture: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Period 6 (12:50 pm - 1:40 pm),
Griffin-Floyd Hall, Room 100

Office Hours: Listed on course website 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: Richard L. Scheaffer & Linda J. Young, *Introduction to Probability and Its Applications*, 3rd Edition, Cengage.

Homework: Appropriate 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. Though you are allowed 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. Answers to selected exercises can be found near the end of the textbook. Naturally, you will learn best if you attempt to solve the exercises before consulting the solutions.

Quizzes: There will be approximately nine in-class quizzes, typically scheduled for Fridays. Each will 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 – Exam 1

November 10 – Exam 3

October 20 – Exam 2

December 1 – Exam 4

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, but one of your within-term exam scores will be dropped – whichever one gives you the highest final score in the course, as determined by the instructor. If you are absent from two within-term exams, and you can document legitimate extenuating circumstances for *both* absences, your final exam score will replace one of the missed exam scores.

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 14, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM (exam group 14C). Details will be announced near the end of the semester. *You must take the exam at the official date and time – no exceptions for personal travel will be granted.*

Course Grade: Grading will be based on a composite score: 20% quizzes, 50% within-term exams, 30% final exam.

Final letter grades will be assigned on the University's newly-instituted grading scale that includes minus-grades. Please familiarize yourself with the new policy related to this scale and the resulting changes in 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 (eg. 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, as determined by the instructor. If you find that you cannot continue the semester before this point is reached, you should instead seek an administrative withdrawal. As part of receiving a grade on Incomplete, University policy requires you to sign a contract with the instructor that specifies a plan and deadline for completing the course.

Lecture Attendance: Classroom lecture attendance is fully expected, even if not strictly enforced. You are responsible for learning all material presented during lecture, and any topic covered in lecture is a potential exam topic (unless otherwise stated).

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 more information.