

**STA 4322/5328, Spring 2012**  
**Introduction to Statistics Theory / Fundamentals of Statistical Theory**  
**Sections 08F1/08F2 (3 credit hours)**  
**Course Information and Policies**

**Objectives:** The sequence of courses STA 4321–4322 (resp. 5325–5328) provides a formal and systematic introduction to the theory of mathematical statistics for students who have passed three semesters of standard undergraduate-level calculus and a first course in statistics. Major topics of STA 4322/5328 include normal-theory sampling distributions, estimation methods, properties of point estimators, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing and related theory, and linear regression. The primary purpose of STA 4322/5328 is preparation for graduate-level study in statistics and closely related subjects. This is a theory - not the applications or methods of statistics – course.

**Prerequisites:** a calculus-based course in probability (e.g., STA 4321 or STA 5325); basic vector calculus (MAC 2313, a prerequisite for STA 4321). More explicit prerequisites from probability (with pertinent sections of the course text, below) are posted on the course page. Prerequisites from vector calculus: vectors, operations with vectors, differentiation of functions of several variables, partial derivatives, minimization of functions (and optimality conditions), multiple integrals. Please check the (Optional) Pretest section below.

**Course Web Site:** has been created at e-learning (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>)

**Instructor:** Dr. Nikolay Bliznyuk (NB), 406 McCarty Hall C; [nbliznyuk@ufl.edu](mailto:nbliznyuk@ufl.edu)

**Teaching Assistants:** Ruoxuan Xiang (RX), [rxxiang@ufl.edu](mailto:rxxiang@ufl.edu);  
Jacob Kannarkat (JK), [jkannarkat@ufl.edu](mailto:jkannarkat@ufl.edu); Evan Zucker (EZ), [ezucker@ufl.edu](mailto:ezucker@ufl.edu)  
To ensure timely response, mention STA 4322 or 5328 in the subject header.

**Communication:** please write to [ufl.sta4322.sp12@gmail.com](mailto:ufl.sta4322.sp12@gmail.com) to have your message sent to all course staff. This will expedite the processing of your message unless only NB can resolve your issue.

**Anonymous feedback:** can be submitted via the form at <https://forms.hush.com/ufl.sta4322.sp12>

**Lectures:** Tue, 10:40-11:35 (period 4), Thur 10:40-12:35 (periods 4 and 5), Turlington L011.

**Course calendar:** <http://tinyurl.com/ufl-sta4322-sp12-calendar>

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

**Textbook:** Dennis D. Wackerly, William Mendenhall III, & Richard L. Scheaffer, *Mathematical Statistics with Applications*, 7th Edition, Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning. Tentative list of supplemental readings from the textbook has been posted on the course page. Keep in mind that, although 90% of the lecture topics are contained in the textbook, the textbook is a supplement, not a replacement of the lectures. Additional texts have been placed on the course reserve at Marston Science Library.

**Homework:** Complementary textbook readings and suggested 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.

**Quizzes:** There will be weekly quizzes held in-class on Thursdays (except 12 Jan), typically lasting 10 minutes. All quizzes will be weighted equally. In the case of sufficient interest from the class, X lowest quiz scores will be dropped for the whole class for completing anonymous intermediate unofficial and final official course evaluation questionnaires (details will be provided in class). Here, X will be determined by the level of interest.

No make-ups will be given for the missed quizzes.

**(Optional) Pretest:** to ensure the active knowledge of course prerequisites, a take-home review problem set (a pretest) will be posted by 10 Jan afternoon. The assignment is not to be turned in. Solutions will be posted on 12 Jan. A pretest score well below 70% is likely to indicate inadequate background; consequently, the student will struggle with the course unless the deficiency is quickly eliminated.

**Prelim Exams:** 4 take-home prelim exams will be given throughout the semester. Policies and coverage details will be announced prior to the date of each exam. The lowest score (out of four) will be dropped. No make-ups.

**Final Exam:** Wed, 2 May, 3-5PM (exam group 2D)

The final is comprehensive/cumulative. Details will be provided near the end of the semester. Plan to take the exam during the university-scheduled date and time — no exceptions for personal travel will be granted!

**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 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 bring your ID card to the quizzes and the final exam. Attendance will be “incentivized” by attendance points on quizzes (on Thursdays) and by extra credit problems (distributed on some Tuesdays), below.

**Extra Credit:** more challenging optional problems/assignments will be occasionally distributed on Tuesdays, due on Thursday of the same week. Correctly solving the assignment will add 1% to your course grade. These extra credit assignments will not be posted on the course page.

**Regrade requests:** must be submitted to the instructor within one week after the graded assignment has been returned, along with a written note about possible grading mistakes. The whole assignment will be regraded by the TAs; you won't have your work regraded in your presence unless only a mistake of incorrectly adding up points was made by the teaching assistants. Late regrade requests will not be accepted.

**Grading:** quizzes (20%), three highest take-home prelim scores (3x10%), in-class final exam (50%). Each component score will be converted to a 100-point scale, upon which the weights will be applied.

**"All In" Grading Scheme:** additionally, if a student's final exam score exceeds the average of the three highest take-home prelim scores, it will replace the prelim average when the course grade is computed.

**Final Grades:** will be adjusted (curved) based on the overall class performance. My expectation is to give B as the median grade for the course, which will be raised in case of exceptional performance of the whole class. (I.e., ideally, everyone should earn an A by acing the course, which I will be more than happy to assign, but obviously this largely depends on the students' performance.) Final letter grades will be assigned on the University's official grading scale; for details, please see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**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/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.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.