

Math 311A Probability Theory

Fall 2004

Hobbs 313

TR 1:00-2:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Mike Coco

Office: Hobbs 322

Telephone: 544-8366

Email: coco@lynchburg.edu

Homepage: http://coco_m.web.lynchburg.edu

Office Hours: TR 9:00am-12:00pm or by appointment

Textbook: Mathematical Statistics with Applications by *John E. Freund* (Miller & Miller) Seventh Edition.

Course Description

An introduction to mathematical probability theory using an axiomatic approach and considering numerous applications.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Calculate simple probabilities of events.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of random variables, probability distributions and probability densities.
3. Calculate the expected value of a random variable.
4. Recognize standard probability distributions.

Course Outline

We will cover most sections from Chapters 1 through 6.

Attendance

Attendance will not be taken. However since a lot of material will be covered each day, some of you may find it difficult to pass this course if you do not attend class.

Homework

Homework will be assigned periodically. Some problems will be collected and graded. These should be written up as neatly and as detailed as possible. Your homework average will make up $\frac{1}{5}$ of your course grade. The remaining problems are for extra practice and are certainly fair game for tests. I suggest you take advantage of these assignments and do as many exercises as possible.

Tests

There will be three semester tests. Each test will be worth $\frac{1}{5}$ of your final grade.

Their tentative dates are:

Test 1 Thursday September 23

Test 2 Thursday October 21

Test 3 Tuesday November 23

Test make-ups will be given only under unusual circumstances and only if you notify me **BEFORE** the scheduled test date.

Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive, covering the entire content of the course, and will make up of your final grade. Under no circumstances will the final exam be given early. The scheduled date, time and place of the final are:

Friday December 17, 2004 2:00pm Hobbs 313

Grading

Course grades will be assigned using a 10-point scale. That is,

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F 0-59

Your grade will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Test 1} + \text{Test 2} + \text{Test 3} + \text{Homework Avg} + \text{Final Exam}}{5}$$

Important Dates

9/6 End of add period
9/17 End of 3-week withdrawal period
9/24 Pass/fail deadline
10/16-19 Fall Break
11/9 End of 10-week withdrawal period
11/24-28 Thanksgiving Break
12/10 Last day of classes

Blackboard

This class will use Blackboard which can be accessed at <http://www.lynchburg.edu/blackboard>. You should check this frequently to keep up with the syllabus, course announcements, homework assignments, and course grades.

Quality of work

In general, it is difficult to do Math neatly in pen since it is not possible to erase mistakes. I strongly suggest doing most of your work in pencil, or that you, at least, always have a pencil with you in class. Any work turned in to me (i.e. homework, tests, etc.) must be done *neatly*.

Special Needs

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should immediately contact the Support Services Coordinator located in the Academic Advising Office (extension 8419) to make arrangements for their accommodations and faculty notification.