

SYLLABUS for STAT 420: Probability and Mathematical Statistics I
FALL 2011

Class: MWF 11:00-11:50am in 231 Wagar

Instructor: Mary Meyer, Associate Professor, Statistics

Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment; 212 Statistics Building
Appointments on MWF only; email any time.

email: meyer@stat.colostate.edu Office phone: 491-5762

GTA: Catherine Tu; catherine.tu@gmail.com; office hour: Thursday 1-1:50pm

Homework solutions will be posted on my web site:

<http://www.stat.colostate.edu/~meyer/stat420.htm>

Grading

Weekly Homeworks: 30%

Exam 1, September 30: 20%

Exam 2, November 4: 20%

Final: 30%

Policies

Students are encouraged to work together and help each other on the homework problems, however, *the write-up of the solutions must be done independently.*

Homework is assigned on Friday and due on the following Friday. You can give it to me in class, or in my office up to 4:45pm on that day for full credit.

If you know ahead of time that you will be absent on the day the homework is due, please get it in early. For unforeseen circumstances such as illness, let me know via email or phone *on or before the due date*. Excused late homework will not be subject to penalty if turned in by the new due date. Unexcused late homework assignments may be turned in by 4:45pm the following Monday, with a 25% penalty.

Exams are in class, open books, open notes but no working together.

Text: *Mathematical Statistics with Applications, 7th edition*, by Wackerly, Mendenhall, and Scheaffer. We will cover chapters 2-7.

Computing: Some homework assignments will require the use of a programming language; I recommend R because it's free and widely used. You can download R at <http://cran.r-project.org/bin/macosx/> for Mac users or at <http://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/> for Windows users.

I do not grade on a curve; the grading scale is:

- A+ = 97-100
- A = 90-96
- A- = 89
- B+ = 87-88
- B = 80-86
- B- = 79
- C+ = 77-78
- C = 69-76
- D = 60-68
- F = 0-59

Advice: Each week, get started on the homework early! It is a big chunk of the grade, and doing a good job on the homework is essential to a good grade in the class. Further, mathematical material is best learned by frequent study rather than cramming. Most people are capable of learning much more if they study one hour a day for five days instead of five hours in one day.

Because the exams are open book, open notes, you don't need to make the "cheat sheet" or one-page summary of key points that is often allowed for a closed-book exam, but it may be helpful to do this anyway. Organizing the information is a useful study tool, and having a list of important results saves time leafing through the book.

Come to class! Every time I do an analysis of exam score as a function of attendance, the conclusion that people who attend regularly do better on the exams is highly statistically significant!