

MATH 208: ELEMENTARY PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS SYLLABUS, SPRING 2017

Disclaimer: This syllabus does not constitute a contract. The Instructor reserves the right to make changes at his discretion throughout the semester.

General information:

- **Course instructor:** Dr. Guillaume Dreyer
Office: KAP 406K
Email: dreyfactor@gmail.com
Office hours: TBA
- **Textbook:** D. Freedman, R. Pisani, and R. Purves, *Statistics, Fourth Edition*
- **Lectures:** 11:00–11:50 am, MWF in ZHS 352

Course content: descriptive statistics, probability, expected value, normal approximation sampling, chance models, tests of significance, confidence interval, hypothesis testing.

Learning objectives: By the end of the semester, you will be familiar with the basic concepts and tools of statistics.

Blackboard: Official announcements for the course, including homework assignments and grades, will be posted on Blackboard <http://blackboard.usc.edu>. It is everyone's responsibility to visit this website on a regular basis.

Grading breakdown: Weekly homework (20%), 2 Midterms (22.5% each), Final (35%).

Homework: Weekly homework will be posted on BB every Monday. You will submit your assignment a week later on Monday at the beginning of our lecture. Late and electronically submitted homework will not be accepted, no exceptions. You are allowed to drop one HW score. (Keep that one-time deal for that day you find yourself sick.)

You are strongly encouraged to discuss homework problems with your peers and to work in groups. This is the most efficient and rewarding way to learn and work. However, you must write your own solutions. **Homework which is simply copied from another source (friend, another textbook, internet, etc.) will be considered as plagiarism, a serious offense to USC honor codes.**

Exams: There will be 2 Midterms and one Final.

- **First Midterm:** Monday, February 13th, in class.
- **Second Midterm:** Monday, March 27th, in class.
- **Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 3rd, 11:00 am–1:00 pm. You must take the final exam at the scheduled time.

If there is a scheduling conflict for an exam, **you must let me know at least 2 weeks before the examination.** A scheduling conflict must involve an activity sponsored and approved by USC (marching band, athlete event, etc.). In particular, the university club or organization in question must send an official request, with the Dean's approval, to all faculty. Personal activities do not qualify. **FAILURE TO ATTEND AN EXAMINATION WILL NOT BE EXCUSED UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES.**

NO cheat sheet, cell/smart phone or other unauthorized electronic device will be allowed during an examination. A proper calculator will be allowed for numerical applications. (A smart phone do not qualify as a proper calculator.)

Grading and evaluation standards: You will be evaluated based on your ability to deliver articulate, organized, unambiguous answers with proper justifications. This requires a clear understanding and knowledge of both the material and methodology, memorization of the definitions, formulae, theorems and hypotheses under which those results apply. Also, one of the main objectives of this course is to develop critical thinking. You must be able to analyze and describe the context of an experiment. You must be able to explain and argue why such or such model may apply, or fails to apply to the considered situation. This is likely what will make this class challenging.

Exams are fast paced. They require proper training and preparation. In particular, timing yourself when working is absolutely necessary. A question that can be solved in 4 min (after proper training) should not take you 15 min.

I am your point of reference: What is covered during lectures—topics, methodology, examples, exercises and way to solve them—is your point of reference. Failure to attend lectures is **extremely likely to significantly impact** your performance in this course.

Resources: The Math Center is located in KAP 263 and is open weekdays from 8 am to 7 pm (it closes earlier, around 5 pm, on Fridays). Its purpose is to provide an environment where students can stop by to get help on their math classes. You are welcome to stop by the Math Center at any time and ask for help from any of the Instructors or TAs who are present at that time. For up-to-date information on the consulting hours, go to the Math Center homepage <http://dornsife.usc.edu/mathcenter>.

Students with disabilities: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number for the DSP office is (213) 740-0776.