

Math 407: Probability Theory - Fall 2014 – SYLLABUS

Instructor: Guillermo Reyes

Office: KAP 444B

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Web site: TBD

Lecture hours: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 am, VKC 152

Instructor office hours: MWF 1:30 - 3:30 pm, or by appointment, KAP 444B

TA: Enes Ozel

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Office: 446

Phone: 213- 821-1480

TA Discussion hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am, 9am, 10am, KAP 167

TA office hours: Tuesdays 11am-1pm and Thursdays 1-2pm at Math Center

Course Description: We will cover the first 8 chapters of the textbook. The main topics are: combinatorial analysis (counting techniques), axiomatics, conditional probability and independence, discrete and continuous random variables and the central limit theorem.

Textbook: *A first course in probability* by S. Ross, 9th edition (Pearson/Prentice Hall)

Important dates:

Midterm 1: October 15th

Midterm 2: November 7th

Drop Deadline: November 14th

Last class: Friday, December 5th

Final Exam: Monday December 15th, 11:00 am-1:00 pm.

Course schedule:

A tentative week by week schedule of lectures is given in the table below.

Week	Dates	Textbook Sections
1	August 25 - 29	1.2 - 1.6
2	September 1 - 5	2.2 - 2.7
3	September 8 - 12	3.2 - 3.5
4	September 15 - 19	4.1 - 4.5
5	September 22 - 26	4.6 - 4.8
6	September 29 - October 3	4.9 - 5.4
7	October 6 - 10	5.4 - 5.7
8	October 13 - 17	Review + Midterm + 6.1
9	October 20 - 24	6.2 - 6.5
10	October 27 - 31	6.7 - 7.4
11	November 3 - 7	7.4+ Review + Midterm
12	November 10 - 14	7.5 - 7.8
13	November 17 - 21	8.2 - 8.3
14	November 24 - 28	8.3 + Thanksgiving
15	December 1 - 5	8.4,8.5,8.6 + Review

Grading:

Homework will be assigned at the end of each week to be turned in the next Thursday.

Quizzes will be given in discussion classes every week, except on the weeks of the midterms.

There will be two midterm exams (50 min. each) during lectures and one final exam (2h).

All exams and quizzes are **closed-book** and **closed-notes**. **No calculators** may be used during the exams unless otherwise stated before the day of the exam.

There will be no make-up exams or quizzes and no late submissions of homework will be accepted, unless special circumstances are presented to the instructor.

Before the drop deadline (November 14th) I will post a letter grade based on the two midterms, homeworks and quizzes.

Grades for quizzes and midterms will not be curved. Letter grades at the end of the semester may be curved.

Grade distribution:

Quizzes = 15%. The lowest three grades will be dropped.
Homework = 15%. The lowest three grades will be dropped.
Each midterm = 20%
Final Exam = 30%

Other comments:

Official announcements, homework assignments, grades, etc. will be posted on Blackboard. You're expected to check Blackboard on a regular basis.

If for some reason you cannot take a midterm exam, or the final, please let me know in advance to find a solution.

Do not hesitate to ask questions. You are very welcome to visit me during my office hours, and you can also make appointments to see me at other time. Your TA is also ready to help you.

There are tutors available to help you at the Math Center. The Math Center is located in KAP 263, and is open Monday to Thursday from 8am to 7pm and Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Please stop by if you have any questions. You don't need an appointment, walk-ins are welcome.

Here is a link to the Math Center if you need further information:
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/mathcenter>