

**STA 4321 / 5325: Introduction to Probability / Fundamentals of Probability**  
Section 7461 / 7490  
Spring 2015

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Website: <http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~swkwong/teaching.html>  
Course materials will be posted on e-learning/Sakai.

Office hours: TBD

Textbook: *Mathematical Statistics with Applications*, 7th ed.  
by Wackerly, Mendenhall, and Scheaffer

Lectures will cover (roughly) chapters 1-6. Note that exams will be based on material actually taught in lecture. The textbook is helpful but not strictly mandatory.

Lectures: Mon Wed Fri      11:45 - 12:35, TUR 2319

Prerequisites: Three semesters of calculus (MAC 2311-2313 or equivalent).

Objectives: The course provides an introduction to probability theory -- the ideas and tools we need for understanding randomness and uncertainty. We will spend time with both learning the mathematical concepts and applying them to concrete examples. This course gives the necessary background for further courses in statistical theory (STA 4322).

Topics:

- Basic elements of probability
- Discrete and continuous random variables
- Multivariate distributions
- Distributions of functions of random variables
- Limit theorems

Course requirements:

The final grade will be based on homework (20%), two in-class midterms (20% each), and an evening exam at the end of the semester (40%).

- *Homework* will be assigned approximately weekly, as solving problems regularly is integral to the understanding of the course material. Homework is due at the beginning of lecture on the specified date. No late homework will be accepted. Assignments will be equally weighted; your lowest score on the homework assignments will be dropped. You are welcome to discuss homework problems with other students; however, the solutions you submit must be written by yourself, in your own words.

- Two 50-minute *midterm exams* will be held in-class on Fri Feb 6 and Fri Mar 13. A 1.5-hour *evening exam* is tentatively scheduled for Tues Apr 21, 8:30-10pm. All exams are closed-book, closed-calculator, closed-phone. You may bring two double-sided pages of notes to the midterms and four double-sided pages of notes to the final.

Grading:

The tentative cutoffs are the usual 10% scale (90% = A, 80% = B, etc.), though will very likely be relaxed. Assigned grades are not negotiable.

Policies:

Please be familiar with the Academic Regulations listed at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/academic-regulations.aspx>.

Note that no make-up exams will be given with the exception of documented medical emergencies. Any accommodations requested will require appropriate arrangements with the Dean of Students Office. You are expected to abide by the Student Honor Code and exhibit academic integrity.