Probability  MA 485/585-2F  Spring 2014

The class meets on Tu/Thur from 3:30pm to 4:45pm in Room EB 236

Instructor:  Dr. Junfang Li
Office:  491 Campbell Hall, ph. 934-2154
Office hours:  Monday/Wednesday, 2:20pm-3:20pm, or by appointment
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There is NO required textbook for this course. Instead, a full set of Lecture Notes in pdf-format, written by Dr. Chernov, will be used and distributed to all students by email.

Grading policy: One of two schedules that yields the better grade will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Schedule 1 (%)</th>
<th>Schedule 2 (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20 % or 0 %</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Test I (Early February)</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Test II (Early April)</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Tuesday, April 22, 4:15-6:45 pm)</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>40 %</td>
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Homework: The list of homework exercises will be sent to you by emails. You need to submit your homework on the due date in class (or put it in the plastic bin outside the instructor’s office). No late homework is accepted. Corrected and graded HW will be returned within one week. Homework is NOT mandatory. If you turn in the HW regularly and the schedule #1 above gives you a better grade, it will be automatically applied. Otherwise, your HW scores (if any) will be dropped and the schedule #2 will be applied. It is advised that you do homework as often as possible, for your practice, even if you cannot do it regularly for credit. Exercises marked as Bonus and Graduate can be attempted for extra credit.

Tests: All tests in this course are open-notes. You may use a calculator, and most likely you will need one, so bring one with you. You may also use a laptop or an iPad.

To MA 585 students: You are taking this course at the graduate level! You will need to do all homework exercises marked as Graduate (some of them require reading Chapter 18 from the class notes, which is marked for graduate students). Unlike regular homework assignments, the graduate exercises are mandatory for MA 585 students. They will make 15% of your course grade, the rest will be re-scaled to 85%. The graduate homework problems can be turned in at any time before (or on) the final exam day.

Midterm Test I covers topics 1-5. Midterm Test II covers topics 6-11. The Final Exam covers topics 12-15 and some selected topics from the 1-11 range (to be announced later in class).

Regular class attendance is important and strongly encouraged. The instructor will follow the lecture notes, so if you have to miss a class, study the notes thoroughly.
This syllabus, the lecture notes for the course as well as homework assignments with due dates will be distributed to all enrolled students via UAB’s class email distribution service. Thus you should make sure to regularly check your UAB email address (of the form YourBlazerID@uab.edu), or to keep the forwarding address up-to-date.

If you would like to use a book, in addition to the lecture notes, you can buy one, or check one out from a library. Here are suggested books:

- S. Ross, *A First Course in Probability*, Prentice Hall, or

The former is simpler and more elementary, the latter is more sophisticated.