

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

MAT 521, INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

Spring 2018 SYLLABUS

SECTION 3, MW 3:45-5:05, Carnegie 200

**Instructor** Professor Terry R. McConnell  
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**Office Hours** MW 9:00-10:30 and by appointment

**Course Description.** This course is an introduction to probability theory. It provides a logical framework for quantifying uncertainty and randomness, with the aim of strengthening probabilistic intuition and promoting accurate computation. Topics include probabilities, distributions, random variables, expectation, inequalities and limit theorems.

**Text Introduction to Probability,** Joseph K. Blitzstein and Jessica Hwang, CRC Press, Boca Raton, 2014 (ISBN-13: 978-1-4665-7557-8)

**Mathematics Prerequisite** MAT 397.

**Catalogue Description** MAT 521 – Introduction to Probability  
College of Arts and Sciences  
3 credit(s) Every Semester

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Algebra of sets. Probability in finite sample spaces. Binomial and multinomial coefficients. Random variables. Expected value and standard deviation. Density functions. Statistics applications.

PREREQ: MAT 397 OR GRADUATE STANDING IN THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

**Student Learning Outcomes of B.S. degree mapped to this course:**

- Demonstrate facility with the techniques of single and multivariable calculus and linear algebra
- Effectively communicate mathematical ideas orally and in writing
- Make accurate calculations by hand and with technological assistance
- Reproduce essential assumptions, definitions, examples, and statements of important theorems

**Grading** Grades for the course will be based on the total number of points accumulated on

homework, two tests and the final exam. Each test will count 25%, the final exam 35% and homework 15% toward your course grade. There will be absolutely no make-ups for any reason. If you miss a test for a valid reason, the final will count correspondingly more.

**Exams.** The dates for the exams are;

Test 1: Monday, February 19

Test 2: Monday, April 2

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 8, 12:45-2:45 pm 200 Carnegie

The final exam will **only be given at this time**. Arrange your travel plans accordingly.

**Homework.** Homework is comprised of two parts aligning with the two main aims of the course. The first is to encourage accurate computation. For this homework will be assigned on **WebWork**, an online homework system. This will involve routine computational problems, a successful understanding of which should be considered the minimum requirement to pass the course. It will count 15% toward your grade. The second part is to strengthen probabilistic thinking and obtain a deeper understanding of the subject. For this *strategic practice problems* will be assigned from the book. Some of these problems are quite challenging, but you will gain a great deal from attempting to solve them. Solutions to these problems are available online, but you should make a concerted effort to solve the problems before looking at the solutions. These problems will not be graded, but minor variations of some of these problems may appear on midterms and the final. To be successful in this course you should expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours a week studying for and working on the homework.

**WebWork** To access WebWork, go to

[http://webwork.syr.edu/webwork2/MAT\\_521\\_Spring\\_2018\\_McConnell](http://webwork.syr.edu/webwork2/MAT_521_Spring_2018_McConnell)

Your username is your SU username and your password is your SUID. (You may change your password after you log in for the first time.) The first assignment, describing how to use WebWork, is up and available for you to work on as of January 15.

**Attendance** You are expected to attend every class, every hour exam, and the final exam. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain a copy of the lecture notes for that class from another student. You are also responsible for any announcements about changes to the course schedule, the exam schedule, or the course requirements made during that class.

**Calculator.** You will need a calculator which contains tables of the binomial, normal and Poisson distributions. The TI-83+ will be used to demonstrate these functions in class.

**Students with disabilities.** If you believe that you need academic adjustments (accommodations) for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), visit the ODS website - <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 or TDD: (315)443-1371 for an appointment to

discuss your needs and the process for requesting academic adjustment. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic adjustments and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since academic adjustments may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

**Religious observances policy.** SU religious observances policy recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice (Student Services -> Enrollment -> My Religious Observances) from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.

**Academic Integrity.** The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>

**Learning Goals.** Students are expected to master the basic ideas of probability and to acquire the skills needed for the application of these ideas to the further study of probability and/or statistics.

**Cell Phones.** Cell phones should be turned off and put away during class. Calculators on cell phones may not to be used on tests.

### **STRATEGIC PRACTICE PROBLEMS**

CHAPTER	PROBLEMS
1	8,9,15,16,18,22,23,26,29,31,32,48,52
2	1,2,30,31,32
3	6,11,18,21,25,28,29,35,37,42
4	13,17,22(a),24,26,30,31,32,50,56,59,60,63,65

5	11,12,16,36,38,50,51
6	13,14,21
7	18,20,24,31,32,39,52
8	4,6,16,24
10	1,2,17,18,21,22,23

5 11,12,16,36,38,50,51  
6 13,14,21  
7 18,20,24,31,32,39,52  
8 4,6,16,24  
10 1,2,17,18,21,22,23