

**MAT 521, INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS**  
**Spring, 2019 SYLLABUS**

**SECTION 003, MWF 10:35am – 11:30am, Carnegie 115**

**Instructor:** Professor D. Quinn Carnegie 306A 443-1484 dpquinn@syr.edu

**Office Hours:** Monday 12:45pm – 1:40pm, Wednesday 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Friday 11:40 am – 12:35 pm and by appointment. (Any changes will be announced in class and via email.) Please use these! Help is available and you can ask about anything you wish, not just the current material.

**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*, by Joseph K. Blitzstein and Jessica Hwang.

**Mathematics Prerequisite:** MAT 397.

**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 30% and homework 20% toward your course grade. There will be no make-ups. If you miss a test for a valid reason, the corresponding portion of the final will be used to make up the missing score.

**Exams:**

Exam I            Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Exam II           Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam:    Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:15 pm – 7:15 pm

**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 weekly 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. The list is below. 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 at

[https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/files/stat110/files/selected\\_solutions\\_blitzstein\\_hwang\\_probability\\_01.pdf](https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/files/stat110/files/selected_solutions_blitzstein_hwang_probability_01.pdf)

but you should make a concerted effort to solve the problems before looking at the solutions. You can also ask about them in office hours and class. This part of the homework 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 and working on the homework.

**WebWork:** To to [https://webwork.syr.edu/webwork2/MAT\\_521\\_Spring\\_2019\\_Quinn/](https://webwork.syr.edu/webwork2/MAT_521_Spring_2019_Quinn/)

Your username is your SU username and your password is your SUID number. You can change this password. Be aware that if you change your SUID password, you will need to contact me to reset your password. In order to avoid missing the deadline for completing WebWork assignments, you should not leave them until the last day. No extensions are available. The first assignment,

describing how to use WebWork, is up and available for you to work on after you have registered for the course.

**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.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend every class, every hour exam, and the final. **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. Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class, including during exams.**

**Calculator:** You will need a calculator which can compute values for the binomial, normal and Poisson distributions. The TI-83/84 will be used to demonstrate these functions in class. A calculator on a smart device, such as a cell phone, or any calculator with a symbolic manipulation capability, cannot be used during exams or quizzes.

## 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
9	-
10	1,2,17,18,21,22,23

**Academic Integrity:** Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice.

The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://class.syr.edu/academic-integrity/>

**Students with disabilities.** If you believe that you need academic adjustments (accommodations) for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <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 adjustments. 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.** Syracuse University's 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 holy days 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 a religious observance provided they notify their instructors no later than 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.