

Probability and Statistics for Teachers
Math 5010, Section 30
Wednesdays 7:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.
Jordan High School: Room E113
Fall 2009

Instructor: Michael Purcell
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Office Hours: By appointment.

Text: Basic Probability Theory by Robert Ash
Published by Dover Publications
ISBN: 978-0486466286

An electronic version of the text is available for download on the [author's website](#). It can be downloaded either one chapter at a time, or as a single (large) file. Because the link to download chapter 8 is broken, I suggest that you download the text as a single file.

Prerequisite: Solid knowledge of Calculus I,II, and III.

Holidays: Fall Break: October 14

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, cognitive, systemic learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Students need to contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss any such accommodations that they may require for this course..

We will cover the material discussed in chapters one through five and chapter eight of the text. Within each chapter I will deviate slightly from the order in which concepts are introduced in the text to (hopefully!) make the material more intuitively accessible. I will, however, work through the chapters in the order in which they appear in the text.

I understand that this class takes place late in the evening, when most of us have been at school/work all day, that it is a rather long class, and that most of the students in the class are coming directly from another long class. Given these challenges, I will try to make the class more than a weekly lecture during which the students take notes, then demonstrate their mastery of the subject on a few high-value exams. For this approach to be successful, however, I will need your help. Your involvement in the classroom projects is vital if they are to be sufficiently interesting for a five-thousand level math class.

Grading

Final Grading Scale:

100-93% A	86-83% B	76-73% C	66-63% D
92-90% A-	82-80% B-	72-70% C-	62-60% D-
89-87% B+	79-77% C+	69-67% D+	0-59% E

Homework: 15%

Because this is a class made up entirely of more experienced students, I don't believe that a traditional homework structure is appropriate. I will, however, assign a number of homework problems (both from the text and from my own diabolical imagination) with the expectation that you will work on them during the week before our next class.

Solutions to all of the exercises from the text are available on the author's website. Therefore, I will **not** have you submit your solutions to me. Instead, each week I will collect a statement from you describing your efforts regarding the given assignment. Full credit for an assignment will be given provided that your statement indicates that you at least attempted each of the assigned problems. Clearly, it is in your best interest to solve all of the problems or, at the very least, understand completely the author's solutions. While a failure on your part to do so will not necessarily impact your homework score, my past experience suggests that it will affect your performance on the exams.

I will be happy to look at your solutions to any of the homework problems you are uncertain how to solve. Because time is a bit tight, it will probably be best to do this after class.

Midterms: 50% (each midterm exam will be worth 25% of your final grade)

Two midterm exams will be given during the semester. They will be administered during the first hour (7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.) of class on September 30, 2009 and November 11, 2009.

Final Exam: 35%

The final exam will be administered on Wednesday, December 16 from 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Absence from an exam will be excused only if you can produce verifiable and convincing evidence that you have/had a significant illness or serious family crisis that will prevent/prevented you from attending. Except under exceptional circumstances, you must make arrangements with me well before the missed test, and you will be expected to take the exam prior to your absence.