

University of Manitoba
Department of Statistics
STAT 3400 – Introduction to Probability II
Fall Term 2018

Course Details

Course Number & Title: STAT 3400, Introduction to Probability II
Section & CRN: Section A01, CRN: 11516
Course Schedule: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (Slot 2),
in 111 Armes.
Lab Schedule: Monday, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m, in 111 Armes.
Prerequisites: STAT 2400 (C), and co-requisite of MATH 2150 or MATH 2720.

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Alexandre Leblanc
Office Location: 367 Machray Hall
Phone: (204) 474-6273
Email: Alex.Leblanc@umanitoba.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.,
Friday 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon),
or by appointment.

General Goals for this Course

This course will be focusing on learning

- the fundamental concepts linked to continuous random variables,
- the more advanced concepts associated with bivariate and conditional distributions.

In this course, you will have an opportunity to develop solid skills in multivariable calculus (which will be essential to your success). The course is quite demanding and your success will depend heavily on your hard work and ability to solve many practice problems: cramming for exams is typically not a very successful strategy.

Textbook and Other Materials

Textbook: The course will be based on

- Weiss, N.A. (2006), A course in Probability, Pearson.

A copy of the textbook will be available on four-hour reserve at the Science Library.

Lecture notes: Lecture notes and other materials (e.g. practice problems, sample tests and exams, solutions) will be posted on the UM Learn system regularly.

Other references: The following are other useful references that will also be available on reserve at the Science Library.

- Ross, S.M. (2006), A First Course in Probability,
- Ghahramani, S. (2005), Fundamentals of Probability with Stochastic Processes,
- Roussas, G. (2007), Introduction to Probability.

Supplementary Problems and Labs

Suppl. Problems: There are no assignments to be handed in for credit in this course. However, different lists of supplementary problems will be provided to the students. Each test/exam will ask for at least two problems taken from those lists, in original or slightly modified form. In the past, the number of problems taken from the lists has often been closer to five or six on each test/exam.

Labs: There is a ninety-minute lab every week. Attendance is not obligatory, but is very strongly suggested. Note, however, that the two tests will take place during the lab (see below). Also, the first lab will be replaced by a lecture. (See Important Dates on p. 4.)

During labs, the teaching assistant will generally be solving selected problems (taken from the list of supplementary problems) and answering other questions that you might have.

Tests and Exam

Midterm Tests: There will be two 90-minute tests, currently scheduled for Monday, October 1 and Monday, November 5, between 2:30 and 4 pm (i.e. during the lab). Both tests will take place in 221 Wallace.

Make-up tests will not be scheduled.

Should you miss a test, you will be assigned a mark of zero unless you:

1. provide a valid excuse with acceptable documentation,
2. notify me within 48 hours of the scheduled test (phone or email is fine).

The other test and the final exam would then respectively count for 25% and 75% of your final mark for the course.

Should you miss both tests and

1. provide a valid excuse with acceptable documentation for both tests,
2. notify me within 48 hours of missing each test,

the final exam would then count for 100% of your final mark.

Final Exam: The Final Exam will be held on a date to be selected later by the Registrar's office and will be 3 hours in duration. The exam will be scheduled during the University-wide examination period starting on December 10.

Grading timeline: Under normal circumstances, test results should be available within a week of the test being written.

Course Evaluation and Grading Scheme

Final Mark: The final mark for the course will be obtained from the following rule.

Midterm Tests (2)	50%	(30% better test – 20% other)
Final Exam	50%	

Letter Grade: I normally follow the following cutoffs when assigning letter grades:

Letter Grade	Mark out of 100
A+	90-100
A	80-90
B+	75-80
B	70-75
C+	65-70
C	60-65
D	50-60
F	below 50

However, I might elect to use lower thresholds for some letter grades if I think they are more appropriate. I will not use higher thresholds.

Outline of Covered Topics and Approximate Timeline

Chapter and Title	Approx. Duration (in weeks)
1. Continuous Random Variables and their Distributions – Continuous random variables, cdf, pdf – Important families of distributions – Functions of a continuous random variable	3.5
2. Jointly Continuous Random Variables – Joint and marginal cdf and pdf – Conditional distributions and independence – Functions of many continuous random variables – Bivariate transformations	4.5
3. Expected Values of Continuous Random Variables – Basic properties: mean, variance and covariance – Conditional expectation – Laws of total expectation and variance – Moment generating functions	4

Technology in the Classroom

It is the general University of Manitoba policy that all technology resources are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Students should restrict their use of technology to those approved by the instructor *for educational purposes only*. Electronic messaging, email, social networking, gaming, etc. should be avoided during class time. Cell phones should be turned off. If a student is on call for emergencies, their cell phone should be on vibrate mode and the student should leave the classroom before using it.

Important Dates

The following dates are important to how the course will progress throughout the term.

Date	Information
Sep 5	First lecture
Sep 10	No Lab – two lectures
Sep 14	First Lab (in a slot that is normally a regular class)
Sep 19	End of the registration revision period
Oct 1	Tentative date for Test 1 (in 221 Wallace)
Oct 8	Thanksgiving - no class or lab
Nov 5	Tentative date for Test 2 (in 221 Wallace)
Nov 12-16	Fall break - no class or lab
Nov 19	Last day to VW the course
Dec 7	Last lecture
Dec 10-21	Final Examination Period

The dates for the midterm tests are tentative (and subject to change at my discretion and/or based on the learning needs of the students). Changes are subject to Section 2.8 of the ROASS Procedure.

Class Communications

The University requires all students to activate an official U of M email account, which should be used for all communications between yourself and the university (including all your instructors). All these email communications should comply with the University's policy on electronic communication with students, which can be found at: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html

Copyrights

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Lectures: No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without my permission.

More details are available online at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/>.

ROASS Schedule A

Schedule "A" of the *Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regards to Students* (ROASS) policies of the University of Manitoba lists resources and policies for students. It is important that you familiarize yourself with these resources and policies. This document is available from the Department of Statistics web page at: <http://umanitoba.ca/science/statistics/>.