

Concepts of Probability

Stat 134 with Adam Lucas, Fall '20.

Syllabus

Instructor:

Adam Lucas

Lectures:

MWF 1-2 pm online

Zoom id:

956 8117 1732 (<https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/95681171732>)

Email:

alucas AT berkeley DOT edu

OH:

MWF 2pm after class on zoom

Textbook:

Probability, Jim Pitman. Students can view and download the text online at [SpringerLink](https://www.springer.com/us/book/9780387979748) (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9780387979748>) (campus network access required). An affordable paperback copy may also be purchased through this link.

GSI OHs:

Office hours available on the [Staff \(staff.html\)](#) page.

Prerequisites:

Mastery of the material in Appendices 1-4 of the text, fluency with calculus (derivatives and integrals) in two variables, and – these are crucial – clear logical reasoning and strong problem-solving skills. Test yourself on some [practice problems](http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~ani/s134s17/prereq.pdf).

Class Website:

The primary class website is stat134.org ([index.html](http://stat134.org/index.html)). bCourses will be used primarily to record your grades and for announcements.

Piazza:

There will be a student run Piazza site for this class. The top 10 student answerers (i.e. students who respond to other student's questions) will get up to 1% extra credit added to their final grade total in bCourses after the curve.

Homework:

Assignments are posted on the Homework tab [here \(homework.html\)](#). They are due by 11:59 pm on the day due (noted below) on Gradescope.

Submissions will be graded on a 0/1 scale. Each assignment will consist of 8 problems. A good attempt at 6 or more problems will receive the score of 1; anything else will get 0. Course staff will define what constitutes a "good attempt." We will be looking for reasoning and detailed work shown – it is assumed that you will show work or provide reasoning whether or not the question asks for it.

Your **two lowest** homework scores will be dropped from the computation of the homework component of your final grade.

No late homeworks will be accepted and cheating will not be tolerated. While you are encouraged to work with other people, you must write up your own solutions.

Quizzes:

There will be six short quizzes during the term, in section, on the dates listed below. Quizzes will not be given at any other time. You must take your quiz in the section in which you are enrolled. Students with DSP accommodations must contact Prof. Lucas to make arrangements as necessary.

Q1: Wednesday, September 9

Q2: Wednesday, September 16

Q3: Monday, September 28

Q4: Wednesday, October 21

Q5: Wednesday, November 4

Q6: Wednesday, December 2

Your **lowest** quiz score will be dropped from the computation of the quiz component of your final grade.

Exams:

Midterm 1: Friday October 9, **during class time**.

Midterm 2: Friday November 20, **during class time**.

Final: Monday December 16, 7-10pm. Location TBA.

Grading:

- 10% Homework, 20% Quizzes, 20% Midterm 1, 20% Midterm 2, 30% Final

Your two lowest homework and your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Academic Honesty

Being an online class academic honesty is of particular concern. I will do everything I can to remove incentives for you to feel like you need to cheat. For one, I won't curve the class. If someone cheats it won't affect your ability of getting a good grade. Second, I am making two midterms so that there is more chances for you to demonstrate what you know. Thirdly, the exams will be designed to be difficult to cheat on. Fourth, please know that I take the Berkeley honor code very seriously and have years of experience catching cheaters. Fifth, if we suspect someone of cheating, we reserve the right to give the student an oral quiz or exam and test if the student understands what they wrote.

Please familiarize yourself with UCBs Academic Honesty Policy (see the Center for Student Conduct website: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct> (<http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct>)). I encourage you to discuss

homework problems with other students and to work together, but copying is never appropriate. (You should never write down anything you don't understand!) I strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the definition of plagiarism, and to avoid engaging in it. **Violations of the UCB's Academic Honesty Policy, including instances of plagiarism, will be reported to the University** and an appropriate penalty will be implemented. (This may range from a failing grade on an assignment to an "F" for the course, in addition to writing letters of reflection and apology to UCB's administration.)

Resources

Quick Links

Homework: stat134.org/homework.html ([homework.html](http://stat134.org/homework.html)) The full list of assigned problems for the entire semester is available at this link. There, you will also find helpful strategies for attacking the problems -- I highly recommend you read through it at least once.

Reading Guide: stat134.org/readings.html ([readings.html](http://stat134.org/readings.html))

Support

The Student Learning Center (SLC) offers extensive support for Stat 134. I highly recommend you enroll in the SLC's Adjunct Course for Stat 134 (Stat 198). Click [here](http://slc.berkeley.edu/statistics-134) (<http://slc.berkeley.edu/statistics-134>) to learn more.

Students with Disabilities: Students needing accommodations should speak with me after class or during office hours and see <http://dsp.berkeley.edu> (<http://dsp.berkeley.edu>) to learn about Berkeley's policy.
