

# MATH 331: Introduction to Probability and Markov Chain Models.

## Course Syllabus, Spring 2013

**Time and place:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am - 10:45am, Van Vleck B119.

**Instructor:** *Saverio Spagnolie*

**Office:** *Van Vleck 505*

**Email:** *spagnolie@math.wisc.edu*

**Course webpage:** *<http://www.math.wisc.edu/spagnolie/Courses/MATH331/index.html>*

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am - 12pm.

**Textbook:** *Fundamentals of Probability, with Stochastic Processes, 3rd ed.*, by S. Ghahramani.

## Homework Assignments:

Reading assignments and homework exercises will be given in class and posted online. It is your responsibility to check the website for information early and often. Weekly homework assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the due date. **No late homework will be accepted.** I strongly encourage you to do the homework throughout the week so I can answer any questions you may have.

Understanding and completing all of the assigned homework problems is crucial to your success in this course. If you do not understand the material or you are not proficient at working the problems, then you should work additional problems on your own. You are encouraged to work in groups but your written answers must be your own work in your own words. *Doing homework thoroughly and consistently is the key to succeeding and learning in math courses.*

## Homework suggestions:

- Use proper English. Write in complete sentences. Be neat. Recopy problems if necessary.
- Write all answers clearly and carefully. You should write as if you were presenting a brief yet logically complete argument to convince a fellow classmate of the truth of your assertions. Thus you do not need to re-state any definitions or theorems you use, though you should mention them by their proper names and state when you are using them.
- You must present an original solution to each problem you are asked to hand in. Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Instances of academic misconduct will lead to disciplinary action.
- You are encouraged to work in small groups, but you should write up your own solutions. Copying other people's solution is not acceptable, even if you worked on the problems together.
- You will be marked both for the correctness of your answer and the style in which you present it.
- Problems should be written in the correct order and your pages must be stapled together.

**Quizzes:**

There will be weekly quizzes in the first half of the semester. Their purpose is to give you a chance for problem solving under a time limit before the midterm exams. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Midterm exams:**

There will be two midterm exams during class periods (to be scheduled). The first exam will be on Chapters 1-4, and the second one will be on Chapters 5-10.

**Final exam:**

The final exam is on Saturday, May 18th, from 10:05am - 12:05pm, and will cover the entire course.

**Absences/Attendance:**

In the case of a missed exam, I will average out that grade based either on your score on the final exam relative to others in the class or on your other major tests or on a make-up test (my choice). The final exam must be taken during the scheduled time without exception.

**Grades:**

In determining your final letter grade your work will be weighted in the following manner

Homework & Quizzes:	30%
Midterm Exams:	40% (20% apiece)
Final Exam:	30%

**Calculators:**

Only the one in your head.