Syllabus: stat 6201  
Mathematical statistics  
autumn 2024

# Course overview

## Instructor

Instructor: David J. Sivakoff

Email address: [dsivakoff@stat.osu.edu](mailto:dsivakoff@stat.osu.edu)

Class Website: Carmen

Lectures: MWF at 8:00-9:15am in Baker Systems Engineering 140

Office hours: M 9:15-10:15am and Th 9-10am and by appointment (please schedule appointments at least 24 hours in advance). Office in CH 440A.

## Course description

STAT 6201 offers an introduction to some of the core concepts from probability theory and

statistical inference. Topics covered include probability, random variables, expectation, moment

generating functions, discrete and continuous distributions, limit theorems, maximum likelihood

and Bayesian estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis tests, Neyman-Pearson lemma, t and F

tests.

## Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

* Understand the basic concepts in probability and statistics.
* Compute probabilities and moments for discrete and continuous distributions.
* Comprehend the probabilistic methods needed to analyze and critically evaluate statistical models and arguments.
* Recognize the importance of statistical ideas.

## Course materials

### Required textbook:

*Probability and Statistics*, Fourth Edition, by Morris H. DeGroot and Mark J. Schervish, Pearson Education, 2012. ISBN: 978-0321500465

## Course delivery

Lectures will be delivered live in person. Office hours are in person, but appointments can be made to meet via Zoom and I can turn on Zoom during regular office hours as needed.

On occasion (due to illness, holiday or travel), live lectures may be replaced by pre-recorded lectures that will be posted to the course website, or by live lectures via Zoom. Announcements for these will be made through the course website.

Attendance is mandatory but will not be tracked. If you need to miss a lecture, you may contact me or a classmate to get course notes. I will also post course notes on the course website.

# Grading and faculty response

## Homework, Quizzes and Exams

| Assignment or category | Percentage |
| --- | --- |
| Homework | 10 |
| Quizzes | 10 |
| Midterm 1 | 25 |
| Midterm 2 | 25 |
| Final Exam | 30 |
| Total | 100 |

Grades will be recorded on the class website.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned regularly. Late assignments will NOT be accepted. Students are required to write clear and detailed answers to all homework problems to receive full credit.

You are encouraged to work together with classmates on the homework, but do not copy any solutions. Each student must produce their own homework solutions to be submitted electronically. Students are not permitted to look up or request solutions to homework problems in online forums or websites, including use of AI.

All homework must be submitted online as a PDF file through the class website (Carmen). Feel free to ask me for help during my office hours after you have earnestly attempted the problems. I plan to have one or two problems per homework graded in detail, and the rest of the grade will be for completeness, clarity, and organization.

**Quizzes:** There will be regular short (up to 10 minutes) quizzes on the material covered recently in the lecture, readings or homework. These quizzes are closed book and closed note, and students are not permitted to collaborate. Dates of the quizzes will be posted in Carmen.

**Exams:** There will be two midterms and one final exam. All exams are in-class and closed book. For each exam (including the final exam) you are allowed to bring two 8.5"x11" sheets of handwritten notes (both sides) and a scientific calculator (something similar to a TI-83). You will not be allowed to use your cell phone, tablet, laptop, smart watch, or any other device with capability to connect to the Internet, or to other devices. The final exam will be comprehensive. Statistical tables will be provided for all exams as needed. The Midterm exams will be on **Wednesday, September 25** and **Wednesday, November 6** during class,and the Final exam will be on **Monday, December 9 at 8:00-9:45am** in our regular classroom.

## Disclaimer

This syllabus should be taken as a fairly reliable guide for the course content. However, you cannot claim any rights from it, and I reserve the right to change due dates or the methods of grading and/or assessment if necessary. Any changes will be communicated to you through official course announcements.

## Tentative Schedule of Topics

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Book sections | Topics |
| 1 | 1.1-1.5 | Calculus review, intro to probability |
| 2 | 1.5-1.10, 2.1 | Sample spaces, events, counting, assigning probabilities, conditional probability |
| 3 | 2.2-2.3 | Labor day Monday (no class Mon), Independence, Bayes Theorem |
| 4 | 3.1-3.3 | Random variables, discrete distributions, continuous distributions, CDFs |
| 5 | 3.4-3.7 | Bivariate distributions, conditional and marginal distributions, multivariate distributions |
| 6 | 3.8-3.9  **Midterm 1**  4.1 | Functions of random variables  **Midterm 1 on Wednesday**  Expectation |
| 7 | 4.1-4.5 | Expectation, variance, moments, means, medians |
| 8 | 4.6-4.7 | Covariance & correlation, conditional expectation, Fall Break (no class Fri) |
| 9 | 5.1-5.6 | Bernoulli, binomial, hypergeometric, Poisson and negative binomial, normal distributions |
| 10 | 5.6-5.10 | Normal, gamma, beta, multinomial and multivariate normal distributions |
| 11 | 6.1-6.4 | Law of large numbers, central limit theorem, sampling distributions |
| 12 | 7.1, 7.5-7.6  **Midterm 2** | Statistical inference, maximum likelihood  **Midterm 2 on Wednesday** |
| 13 | 7.2-7.4 | Veteran’s Day (no class Mon), Bayesian estimation |
| 14 | 8.1-8.7 | Sampling distributions, Chi-squared distribution, t distribution, confidence intervals, unbiased estimation |
| 15 | 9.1-9.2 | Intro to hypothesis testing, simple hypotheses, Thanksgiving Break (no classes Wed-Fri) |
| 16 | 9.4-9.6 | t-tests, comparing two means, course summary & review as time allows |

# Other course policies

## Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Please **do not disseminate any course materials, including any lecture videos, assignments, and solutions** outside of the course.

## Academic integrity policy

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

## Religious accommodation

## Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

## With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

## A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

## If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the Office of Institutional Equity ([equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu)). (Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](https://oaa.osu.edu/religious-holidays-holy-days-and-observances))

## Statement on title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu).

## Mental health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [**ccs.osu.edu**](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 **by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**.

## Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

### The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu/); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

### Accessibility of course technology

This course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor. [Carmen (Canvas) accessibility.](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2061)