

MATH 8A: INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS, Fall 2008

Instructor: Mario Bourgoïn, Goldsmith 204, x63063, mob@brandeis.edu

TEXT. *Introduction to the Practice of Statistics*, D. S. Moore and G. P. McCabe, 5th edition.

SYLLABUS. We will cover Chapters 1–9 and 12, and additional material as time permits.

GRADES. Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

25% Midterm, Monday, October 27, 7–9 PM, Gerstenzang 122

30% Final Exam, Monday, December 15, 1:30 PM–4:30 PM

25% Group Project, December 1 and 3, in class

20% Homework and Class Participation

COURSE POLICIES.

EXAMS. Please note that the midterm exam is in the evening. If you have a genuine and irremovable schedule conflict (such as a class, lab, or another exam) with the MATH 8A midterm exam, inform me at least two weeks before the exam. If the conflict can't be resolved, we will offer you a make-up exam. *You must obtain permission from me to miss an exam BEFORE the exam is held.* Rescheduling final exams can only be done in exceptional circumstances, and *under no circumstances will final exams be given early.*

GROUP PROJECT. All students are expected to work with one or two other students on a group project. The results of the project will be a paper and an in-class PowerPoint presentation at the end of the semester. *You must obtain permission from me to miss your presentation BEFORE the presentation days.* Any research that involves human subjects must conform to the guidelines set forth by the Brandeis Committee for Protection of Human Subjects. The project will be discussed in greater detail in class.

ASSIGNMENTS. Homework assignments will be collected regularly. *No late assignments will be accepted*, but your three lowest homework grades will be dropped. We encourage you to discuss homework problems with your classmates, but *you should write the solutions up on your own.* We will usually not have time to discuss homework questions in class. If you have questions about homework problems, you should go to my office hours.

CLASS PARTICIPATION. Prompt and regular class attendance is expected – more than two unexcused absences will result in a lower grade for participation. *Two late arrivals (more than 5 minutes late) will count as one absence.* Beyond participation in discussions and group projects, students will be expected to read the Boston Globe or the New York Times regularly. At the beginning of each class a student will report on "Statistics in the News," a description, interpretation, and criticism of graphs and statistics found in the news.

CALCULATORS. You should have a statistics calculator with capabilities comparable to the TI-30X II S. You do not need a graphing calculator. *Calculators are required during exams*, and they will be used in class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability you should contact me and present your letter of accommodation without delay. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations you should contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Undergraduate Academic Affairs at 6-3470. Letters of accommodation should be presented at the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations. *Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. You are expected to follow the University's policy on academic integrity (see <http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai>). In particular, you are expected to be familiar with Section 4 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. If you have any questions about how these policies apply to your conduct in this course, please ask. *Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Student Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System.*

COURSE ASSISTANCE.

LATTE. All course materials for MATH 8A will be available on line on LATTE. Log in to LATTE at <http://moodle.brandeis.edu> using your Unet username and password.

OFFICE HOURS. You are encouraged to use my office hours whenever you have questions about the course material. If you can't attend my office hours, make an appointment with me to meet at another time.

EMAIL. Email is a good way of getting in touch with me. I try to answer all email promptly, although it will sometimes take me up to 24 hours before I can get to your email.

SEMESTER CALENDAR.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Aug 28 First	29
Sep 1 Holiday	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11 Last Add	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29 Tuesday	30 Holiday	Oct 1 Holiday	2	3
6	7	8	9 Holiday	10 Holiday
13	14 Holiday	15	16 1st Drop	17
20	21 Holiday	22	23	24
27 Midterm	28	29	30	31
Nov 3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14 2nd Drop
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27 Holiday	28 Holiday
Dec 1 Present	2	3 Present	4	5
8	9 Last	10	11	12
15 Final				