

MATH 351 - Section 1
Probability
Spring 2009

Instructor : David Singman

Office and Hours: Science & Tech I, Room 235, M,W,F 11:00-12:00 and by appointment. I encourage you to see me with math questions you have about the material of the course.

E-mail and Telephone: dsingman@gmu.edu, (703)-993-1476. If I am unavailable, e-mail is the best way to get in touch with me, but you can also leave a voice-mail message.

Text: *A First Course in Probability*, seventh edition by Sheldon Ross, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

Syllabus: We will cover Chapters 1 through 8 (with some omissions). The list of topics includes combinatorial analysis, axioms of probability, conditional probability and independence, discrete and continuous random variables, jointly distributed random variables, properties of expectation, limit theorems.

Web site: A web site has been set up for the course. It is your responsibility to monitor it several times per week for updates. On it I will post announcements relevant to the course, practice problems to work in order to prepare for class, graded homework assignments, copies of tests once given and their solutions, etc. You can find it by going to <http://math.gmu.edu>, following the link to “**course information**”, then “**course home pages**” and clicking on the link to our section.

Prerequisites: You should have a grade of C or better in Math 213 (Calc 3). In particular you should be comfortable with various integration techniques, partial derivatives, double integrals and triple integrals.

Practice Problems from the text: This is a list of problems from the text that I will post on the website for the course and which will be updated regularly. Although these problems won't be turned in, you should make a serious effort to solve as many of them as you can before we go over some of them in class. The problems are often quite hard and not routine, so you can expect to have trouble with the course if you don't take my advice on this point.

Graded Homework Problems: These are the problems which will be done for credit. They will be posted on the website for the course. As they are done for credit, it will be considered an honor code violation if the work you turn in is not your work.

Class tests: There will be three class tests given during class time on the following days:

Test 1	Wed. Feb. 25
Test 2	Wed. April 1
Test 3	Wed. April 29

Final Exam: The final will be held on Monday, May 11 from **10:30a.m.-1:15pm**. It will be a cumulative exam that covers the main ideas of the course.

Grading: Each of the class tests counts for 20%, the graded homework for 10%, and the final exam for 30%. There will be **no make-up tests**. In case one of the class test scores is lower than that of the final exam (including a class test that is missed), consideration will given by counting the final exam in its place for 20% extra.

Scale: A^- , A , A^+ 90 - 100; B^- , B , B^+ 80 - 89; C , C^+ 70 - 79; D 60 - 69; F 0 - 59.