

MATH351: Probability – FALL 2007

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2.45–3.15 and 6.45–7.15 or by appointment.
Webpage: <http://math.gmu.edu/~harbir/m351>

Textbook: *A First Course in Probability*, 7th edition, Prentice-Hall, 2006,
by Sheldon Ross

The Course: We will cover most of the sections in Chapters 1–8 and as much of Chapters 9 and 10 as we have time for.

Homework questions will be assigned after each section is completed. These will not be collected or graded but you are **STRONGLY** advised to attempt them and write out your solutions as if they would be. You are encouraged to discuss these problems amongst yourselves and to make use of the office hours. I will go through each set of homework questions in the next class and you will only benefit from this if you have attempted them properly beforehand. Note that the assigned homework questions are the **ABSOLUTE MINIMUM** you should be doing each week. Many of the exercises, as well as all of the self-test questions, have the solutions given in the back and you should attempt as many of those as you feel you need to.

The course will be evaluated with 3 (1 hour) in-class exams on Tuesday September 25th, Tuesday October 30th and Tuesday December 4th. Your 2 best results (relative to the class average for that test) will each contribute 25% towards the evaluation and the remaining 50% will come from a (cumulative) final exam on Tuesday December 12th (time to be confirmed). I shall explain the grading system in more detail in the first lecture¹. If you miss more than one of the in-class exams then you will need to provide very good (and well-documented) reasons for missing EACH of them. There will be no make-up tests or ‘extra-credit’ assignments. You are expected to abide by the University Honor Code and all suspected violations will be reported to the Honor Committee. No outside materials will be allowed during any of the examinations. Finally, it is YOUR responsibility to regularly check the course webpage and your official university email address for announcements.

Additional Remarks:

- 1) Feel free to ask questions in class. It makes things more interesting for everyone, myself included. 2) Please check the course webpage or this handout for the answers to any questions you may have before emailing me.
- 3) Also, please email me from your official GMU email address. My spam filter might divert your email otherwise!

¹NOTE: I DO NOT GRADE ON A CURVE. The formula I use to rank you depends upon the class average but the grade boundaries do not!