This course is an introduction to Probability Theory. The text that we will use is “A First Course in Probability,” eighth edition, by Sheldon Ross, published by Prentice Hall. We will cover most of chapters 1 - 8. The prerequisite for the course is a C or better in third semester Calculus.

The course web page is

http://math.gmu.edu/~wmorris/351hws11.html

There you will find homework sets. Our textbook is a classic. A group of students and faculty at MIT have compiled a set of solutions to the problems in the seventh edition at

http://waxworksmath.com/Authors/N_Z/Ross/AFirstCourseInProb/ross.html

which you may find useful. I will make new problems that will be similar to the ones in the book. The course web page will also contain some class notes.

Spring break is from March 14 to March 20.

There will be two tests during the semester and a final exam. We will tentatively schedule the first two tests for March 1 and April 12. Each of the first two tests determines one fourth of the final grade. The final exam is cumulative. It will be given on May 12. One third of the final grade is determined by the final exam. One sixth of the grade is determined by weekly homework assignments.

Feel free to come to my office if you have any questions. I check my e-mail daily, so you can also ask questions that way. Be certain that you understand all of the homework assigned and all of the assigned reading, and that you ask questions in or out of class in order to clear up any problems you might have. Bear in mind that the questions that you ask in class help not only you, but also the professor and all of the others who had the same questions but were afraid to speak up.