Math 308 Section B1, Actuarial Statistics, I, Spring 2004

Lectures: MWF 9-10am, Room 243 ME bldg.

Instructor: Ruth Kantorovitz

Contact information: Office: 232 Illini Hall, phone: 333-3186, email: ruth@math.uiuc.edu (email is the best way to reach me).

Course Web Page: http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~ruth/308.html

Office Hours: Monday 12:30-2:30, or by appointment.

Discussion Sections: Tu 3 - 4 pm (Sect. T1), Tu 4 - 5 pm (Sect. U1), room 137 HENRY BLD.

Teaching Assistant: Sung-Ho Lee, office: B1 Coble Hall, email: lee59@uiuc.edu, office hours: TBA.


Syllabus: We will cover chapters (1) and 2–6.

Prerequisite: MATH 242 or MATH 245, or equivalent.

Homework: Homework problems will be assigned on Mondays. The homework is due on Tuesday of the following week in the beginning of the discussion section. No late homework will be accepted. The grader will grade 4 or 5 randomly selected problems. You must show your work to receive a full credit. Graded homework will be returned during discussion sections. At the end of the semester, the lowest homework grade will be dropped.

You are encouraged to work in groups and discuss the homework problems. However, after discussing the problems, I would like each one of you to write up your own solutions.

Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes, given during the Tuesday discussion sections. No makeup quizzes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Exams: There will be two midterms and a final. You have to pass the final to pass the course. All exams are closed book and no notes are allowed. The midterms will take place on Friday February 20 and Friday April 2. The final, according to the non-combined final examination schedule, is to take place on Wednesday May 12, 8–11am in the regular classroom. There are no makeup exams. In special cases a makeup exam might be given, in which case the student may need to obtain a written permission from the Dean and the program director. However, the makeup exams will generally be harder than the regular exams.

Calculators: The calculator policy is the same as that used for Actuarial Exams; see course web page for link for a list of approved calculators. Essentially, you are not allowed to use a calculator with advanced features like the ability to integrate, differentiate, solve equations or to graph curves.
Grading: The formula for the course grade is roughly as follows:

- Homework = 10%
- Quizzes = 15%
- 2 Midterms at 25% each = 50%,
- final exam = 25%.

There will be NO CURVE.

Letter grades are assigned approximately as follows.
A's: 90–100,
B's: 80–89,
C's: 70–79,
D's: 60–69,
F: below 60.

More Information

The objectives of this course are to (a) provide a basic introduction to probability theory for students in actuarial science and (b) prepare students for the probability portion of the first actuarial exam (Course 1).

To help prepare for the actuarial exam, we will go over many problems from previous exams. Professor Hildebrand, who taught this course last year, organized the probability problems in exams from 1999-2001 by topics and rated them as easy, medium, or hard. We will use these problem sets during the semester. There are also many useful hints and links on Professor Hildebrand’s course web page. I will have a link to his web page from our course web page.