Probability
Math 161-01, Fall 2005

MWF 1:00–1:50 pm Barus & Holley 157

Instructor: Prof. Sergei Treil,  
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Office hours: MWF 2:00–3:00 pm and by appointment.

Text: “Probability Theory: A Concise Course” by Y. A. Rozanov. We will cover essentially all topics presented in the textbook.

Course material on the web: You will be able to find a syllabus, course outline, homework assignments, announcements etc on my home page at http://www.math.brown.edu/~treil (under construction at the present time).

Grading

midterms 30% 2 exams
homework & quizzes 25% the lowest homework/quiz score is dropped
final 45%

Just to give you an idea what to expect: the cutoff point for A is usually about 90%, the score below 50% usually means failing. Other cutoff points are distributed more or less uniformly.

Other factors such as: effort, attitude, and improvement over time may figure into your final grade. I may also assign a less weight to a single exam grade that is out of line with the others.

Homework: Homework will be assigned each lecture and discussed at the beginning of the next lecture. It will be collected weekly for grading purposes. Although not all problems will be graded, it is extremely important to do all the homework. Test’s and quizzes’ problems will be often modeled after the homework problems or problems discussed in the class.

Note that you are not done with a problem just because you got the right answer. You are only done when you understand why the methods you used had to have worked. If all you are doing is blindly applying formulas and mimicking examples, get extra help. The problems should make sense to you. You should be able to solve the problem and similar ones with closed book and notes.

If you don’t work hard on the homework, you won’t know what’s going on in class and do poorly on the exams!
Submitting the homework. The following rules will be strictly enforced:

1. Write your name clearly at the top of every page.
2. Put the problems in order, indicating clearly what you have skipped.
3. **Staple** your homework. Paperclips, folded corners, etc. are not acceptable.
4. Turn in assignments in time. No late homework will be accepted.
5. Write neatly. If your homework is too messy, a grader may chose not to grade it.

Quizzes: The quizzes may be given if necessary. The quizzes will be closed book, closed notes, and will consist of problems modeled after the homework assigned since the previous quiz. Each quiz is worth 10 points (the same as a homework assignment).

Exams: There will be two exams during the semester, the dates will be announced later. Exams are closed book and closed notes.

Make-ups will not be permitted except for a severe medical problem or dire family emergency. A written note from an appropriate person (doctor, father, etc.) is required. If at all possible, you should notify me before the missed exam.

Final: Closed book and closed notes. The date will be announced later.

Calculators: You can use computers/calculators when doing homework. However they are not permitted on the tests and quizzes.

Questions: Mathematical questions are appreciated any time during the class.

Attendance: Many college students treat class attendance as optional. This may be fine for some classes. However, in math. classes you can get way behind very fast. I would not penalize you for non-attendance, but you should come to class every time unless you are seriously ill.

And remember: office hours are not replacements for missing classes!