

MTH4107 Introduction to Probability – 2010/11

Course Information

Lectures: Wednesday 1200–1300 Mason Lecture Theatre
Thursday 1300–1400 Mason Lecture Theatre
Friday 1000–1100 Skeel Lecture Theatre

Exercise Classes: Start in Week 2 (week beginning 4 October).

Lecturer: Bill Jackson, Room 253 Mathematical Sciences
email: B.Jackson@qmul.ac.uk

Office Hours: Thursday 14:30–15:30
Friday 14:00–16:00

Assessment: 20% tests, 80% final examination

Lectures: Attendance at lectures is compulsory. You must take your own notes in the lectures (usually this will involve writing down carefully everything I write on the board or OHP). I will make a version of the lecture notes available after the lectures but these will not contain everything that is lectured and are not a substitute for your own notes. It is important that you spend some time between lectures reading over your notes and making sure that you understand them.

Exercise Classes: You will be assigned to a particular group for the exercise classes. Each group will have a tutor who can answer your questions about material in the lectures and on the exercise sheets. You will get most out of the classes if you spend some time trying to do the questions on the sheet before the class. Your tutor is there to explain things which you don't understand and to give hints if you get stuck. He/she will not simply tell you how to do the questions. I encourage you to use the classes to ask any questions you have about the lecture notes as well as the exercise sheets.

Coursework: Coursework takes the form of weekly exercise sheets. These will be handed out in the Wednesday or Thursday lecture. There will be one 'starred' question on each sheet. Solutions to this question should be handed in to your tutor for feedback in the exercise class of the following week. It will be marked and returned in the next exercise class. When submitting work be sure to write your FULL NAME, STUDENT NUMBER and GROUP at the top of your solution, and staple all the sheets together. It is important that you collect your marked coursework and read through it so you can see what you did right and what you did wrong. If there are still things you don't understand then ask your tutor in the exercise class. The exercise sheets will contain a mixture of routine examples and more challenging problems. It is essential for your understanding of the course that you make a serious attempt to do *all the questions on each exercise sheet*, not just the starred question.

Tests Tests will be held in the seventh and twelfth week of the semester. Further information will be provided in the week before each test.

Missed In-Term Assessment Report Form Persistent non-submission of coursework or absence from lectures, exercise classes or tests may lead to you being barred from the final exam. If you miss handing in a coursework or taking a test for a good reason, you should fill in a Missed In-Term Assessment Report Form (available from the Web at <http://www.maths.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/forms/>) and give it to the Pastoral Tutor (Dr O. Bandtlow, Room B16).

Examination: Information on the final examination will be provided before the end of the course.

Books: All the material you need to know will be covered in lectures so it may not be essential for you to buy a textbook. However, if you are finding this module difficult and would like to see a different presentation of the material, or more examples, then the following book is recommended:

Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences by Jay L. Devore (fifth edition), published by Wadsworth. Chapters 2–5 are relevant. This book is also on the reading list for the module MTH4106 Introduction to Statistics.

A slightly more mathematically sophisticated book which would be appropriate if you are enjoying the course is:

A First Course in probability by Sheldon Ross, published by Prentice Hall. Chapters 1–4 (the later chapters of this book are also on the reading list for the second year course Probability II);

Other books which you could use instead are:

Probability and Statistics in Engineering and Management Science by W. W. Hines and D. C. Montgomery, published by Wiley, Chapters 2–8; or

Mathematical Statistics and Data Analysis by John A. Rice, published by Wadsworth, Chapters 1–4.

Not everyone finds the same books to be useful so I suggest that if possible you use a book (by borrowing it from the library or looking at a friend's copy) before buying it yourself. If you find any other books to be useful then please let me know

You should buy a copy of *New Cambridge Statistical Tables* by D. V. Lindley and W. F. Scott, published by Cambridge University Press. This will also be used extensively in the module MTH4106 Introduction to Statistics.

Module webpage: <http://www.maths.qmw.ac.uk/~bill/MTH4107/>

All handouts and exercise sheets will be put on the webpage.