

Colby College

Department of Mathematics

**MA381 – Mathematical Statistics I: Probability
Fall 2007**

Class Meetings:

MWF 1:00-1:50 Diamond 145

Professor:

Liam O'Brien

Mudd 401

859-5838

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Office Hours:

MTWF 10:00-11:00, by appointment, or whenever my door is open. I will also announce additional office hours each week and post a weekly schedule on my door. I try to be in my office as much as possible – if you have a difficult time finding me then send me an email.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Homework and Class Participation (20% total) will be assessed through written homework handed in (15%) and class participation (5%). No late homework will be accepted.

Quizzes (25% total) will be given roughly at the end of each chapter. These will be take home and will generally be due in the next class. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped (provided it isn't a 0) and the weighted average score of the remaining quizzes will then be used for this portion of your grade).

Midterm (25%) will be given on **October 19th** from 7pm to 9pm.

Final exam (30%) will cover material after the midterm.

Required Text:

Wackerly, Mendenhall, and Scheaffer. (2002). *Mathematical Statistics with Applications*, 6th edition. W.H. Freeman. ISBN 0716796570.

Readings that cover the topics of the next lecture will be announced in previous class. It is strongly recommended that you read the material *before* the lecture. A reading list is also distributed with this syllabus with a tentative reading schedule.

Two copies of the student solutions manual are on reserve in the science library for 2-hour loan.

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Policy on Collaboration:

You may discuss the homework problems with other students (and with me), but you must write your final answer yourself, in your own words. Solutions prepared “in committee” or by copying, paraphrasing, or summarizing someone else’s work are not acceptable. Discussing any take home quiz or exam with anyone other than me is *not* permitted. Doing so will result in a zero being given for that particular quiz or exam.

Policy on Attendance:

Statistics, like mathematics, generally builds from one topic to the next, making a missed class something to avoid. If you must miss a lecture and know ahead of time, then let me know and I will give you the topics to be covered that day. If this isn’t possible, then get the material from a classmate or get in touch with me. Absences for which no reason is given (and accepted by me) may result in a loss of participation points.

Comments and Suggestions:

I welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to let me know of your opinions about any aspect of the course. If you prefer, you can drop an anonymous note in my mailbox or in the box outside my door. *Please do not hesitate to let me know how I can improve the course.*