

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Department of Mathematics

Math 247 – Probability

Room SC 1206, Time TR 1:10—2:25

Fall 2008, 3 hours credit

Instructor: Pinhas Grossman
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Office: 1407 Stevenson Center
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00
Tuesday 12:00-1:00
Thursday 2:30-3:30

Description: Math 247 is an introduction to probability theory. It is helpful, although not strictly necessary, to be familiar with the material covered in Math 218.

Text: A First Course in Probability Theory, 7th edition, by Sheldon Ross.

Tests: There will be two in-class exams during the semester, scheduled for Thursdays October 2 and November 13. The final exam, which is comprehensive, is scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 9 a.m. *There is no alternate final exam.*

Homework: Homework will be assigned in class and posted at <http://www.math.vanderbilt.edu/~grossmp/247.html>. It will generally be due in class each Tuesday. It will be graded for completeness and selected problems will be graded for correctness. Late homework will lose 20% of the grade for each day late. Students are encouraged to come to office hours for questions about the homework.

Grades: Grades will be based on the midterm exams (20% each), the final exam (35%), and the homework (25%). A raw percentage score of 88-100 guarantees a grade in the A range, 75-87 in the B range, 60-74 in the C range, with plus or minus grades assigned as appropriate.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: The stated attendance policy of the College of Arts and Science applies in this course: *Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of classes in which they are enrolled; they have an obligation to contribute to the academic performance of all students by full participation in the work of each class. ... The faculty of the College of Arts and Science recognizes that occasions arise during the academic year that merit the excused absence of a student from a scheduled class or laboratory during which an examination, quiz, or other graded exercise is given. Examples include participation in sponsored university activities (e.g., debate team, varsity sports), observance of officially designated religious holidays, serious personal problems (e.g., serious illness, death of a member of the student's family), and matters relating to the student's academic training (e.g., graduate or professional school interviews). Conflicts arising from personal travel plans or social obligations do not qualify as excused absences.* Students who have a documented excused absence from a test may be given a make-up. The instructor must be notified of the problem ahead of time except in the case of an emergency.

Honor Code: All work submitted for credit must be the student's own and is subject to the provisions of the Vanderbilt Honor Code. Details can be found at the Honor Council web site (<http://mba.vanderbilt.edu/studentclubs/academic/honorcouncil/>).

Accommodation Procedure: A student who needs course accommodations due to a disability, special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, or has emergency medical information that needs to be shared with the instructor, should contact the instructor as soon as possible. The **Opportunity Development Center** (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/odc/>) at Vanderbilt provides specific accommodations for students with either physical disabilities or learning disabilities. Upon receiving appropriate documentation from the student, the Opportunity Development Center will make arrangements with the instructor for the accommodations.

Important Fall Semester Dates:

August 25	Classes and change period begin
September 1	Fall registration change period ends 4:00PM; last day undergraduates may add or drop a course with no entry on their record; last day undergraduate students may register for pass-fail status in a course;
October 2	Midterm Exam 1 for Math 247
October 20-21	October Break
November 13	Midterm Exam 2 for Math 247
November 22-30	Thanksgiving holidays
December 3-9	Dead week
December 9	Last day of classes
December 12	Final Exam for Math 247 (9:00 a.m.)