Statistics 330: Probability & Statistics for Computer Science and Engineering

Fall 2010

Lecture Location:  Sweeney 1134
Lecture Times:  MWF 12:10pm – 1:00pm
Class Website:  http://maitra.public.iastate.edu/stat330/fall2010.html
Instructor:  Professor Ranjan Maitra
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Office Hours:
   Dr. Maitra: MW 1:10pm-2:00pm, or by appointment
   Ru : T 2-3 pm (in 3404 Snedecor), R 3-4 pm (in 2404, Snedecor)

Text and References:  The required textbook for the class is Michael Baron's Probability and Statistics for Computer Science (Chapman & Hall/CRC Press, 2007) which we will use for class lectures as well as for exercises.

My webpage will also contain a link to Professor Heike Hofmann's lecture notes.  For your convenience, here is a link to Dr. Hofmann's lecture notes:

http://emilyb.public.iastate.edu/stat330/hofmannnotes.pdf

Content:  The course will introduce you to the basic concepts of probability theory, queuing theory, and statistical inference. (Note: in the past, there has not been sufficient coverage of statistical inference. I do hope to cover more this semester.)

Grades:  Your performance on homework assignments, two best out of three midterm exams, and one final exam will determine your grade.  I may give opportunities for extra credit. I will weigh the homework assignments, midterms and final exam according to the following percentages when computing the final grade:
Homework: (best ten) 15%

Midterms: (best two) each worth 25%

Final Exam: 35%

Homework Policy: I will assign a problem set each week (roughly). Each homework assignment is worth 10 points. The TA will grade a random subset (the same for everybody) of the assigned problems. I will collect homework in class. You may also turn in homework assignments in by 12:10pm on the due date. I will not accept homework after 12:10pm on the due date. Homeworks are not to be turned in “under my office door” or in my department mailbox. I take no responsibility for homeworks delayed or lost if submitted in this manner. I will post homework problems and solutions on the course webpage. Because the TA will not check your solution to every problem, I recommend that you compare your answers with the solutions that I post and ASK me or the TA if you have questions.

While I encourage you to collaborate on the homework problems, each student must write his/her own answers independently. Two papers, therefore, will not be identical. If you work with others, please list the names of collaborators in parentheses on your paper underneath your name.

Exams: The three in-class midterms (best two are worth 25% of the final grade) are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, Friday, October 22 and Friday, November 19. These dates may change depending on how quickly I cover the material. The registrar has tentatively set the final exam for Wednesday, December 15 from 2:15pm – 4:15 pm. The final dates will be set in mid-October, as per the Registrar’s website.

Because there are options to drop homeworks and mid-terms, I do not give make-up exams.

Academic Dishonesty: This class will follow the Iowa State University policy on academic dishonesty found in the ISU catalog. A score of zero will be given for the entire assignment in which the academic dishonesty occurred and further disciplinary action will be pursued in line with university policy.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact Professor Ranjan Maitra, the course instructor, within the first two weeks of the semester. Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored. Before meeting with the course instructor, you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the Disability Resources Office, located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-6624.