

**The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Course Syllabus**

**OIDD 931 - STOCHASTIC MODELS II**

**Q3, Jan 11 - March 1, 2018**

Status: November 28, 2017

**Instructor:** Professor Maria Rieders  
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**Lectures:** Tuesday, Thursday 10:30 am – noon, JMHH G88  
**Office hours:** TBA

**Evaluation:** Weekly/biweekly homework assignments (35%);  
participation (15%);  
final exam (50%)

**Prerequisites:** Calculus (including differential equations), linear algebra, probability  
(no measure theory required), stochastic models as in OPIM 930/OIDD 930

**Texts:**

- Ross *Stochastic Processes*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Wiley (required)
- Karlin and Taylor *A First Course in Stochastic Processes*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1975, Academic Press (recommended)
- Copies of these texts as well as some other books of interest have been put on reserve at the Lippincott library.
- Class handouts and assignments will be made available on the course website.

**Course Description:**

This is the second part of our Stochastic Models course sequence. We start by revisiting continuous time Markov chains, with a special focus on computational methods and extensions beyond the exponential distribution. Building on the elementary counting processes presented in Stochastic Models I, we now study the more general theory of renewal processes. Of particular interest are limiting results such as the Key Renewal Theorem that enable us to calculate long run performance measures of interest. We then introduce martingales which provide a basic approach for studying applied probability models. Martingales will prove particularly useful in analyzing Brownian motion processes. Besides presenting general results on Brownian motion, we will look at applications including some financial models of interest.

**Course Topics:**

A tentative course outline follows. Content and focus may vary based on student background and interest.

Topic 1	Continuous Markov Chains – Computational Methods
Topic 2	Time Reversibility
Topic 3	Renewal Processes – Basic Results
Topic 4	Renewal Processes - Key Renewal Theorem
Topic 5	Renewal Theory - Related Processes
Topic 6	Branching Processes
Topic 7	Martingales
Topic 8	Brownian Motion

**Website:**

We will be using a Canvas website that facilitates information sharing, course logistics and assignments. To access your Canvas site, go to <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/xxxxx>. Please, check the Canvas website frequently during the semester for up to date information, assignments, and class handouts.

**Homework:**

Assignments will be given on a weekly/biweekly basis. Please, submit a hard copy of your solutions at the beginning of class on the due date listed; if you can't make the deadline due to extenuating circumstances, please ask the instructor before the due-date for a possible extension. Unless otherwise stated, homework is to be done individually. You are encouraged to discuss the problems (and any of the material covered in class) with each other; yet the work that you submit must be your own. If you benefited from discussions with a peer, please do acknowledge the collaboration. Students are expected to refrain from soliciting solutions from other sources (e.g. internet, previous years' classes, etc). If you do use outside information, academic honesty requires you to state such sources.

**Participation:**

This is a Ph.D. level course. Our class sessions are meant to provide a learning environment that involves all participants. I am always open for questions, both inside the classroom and during office hours. Students are expected to come prepared to class, ask relevant questions, and actively participate in classroom discussions.

**Exams:**

There will be an open book final exam, on **Thursday, March 1** during class.