STAT 430: PROBABILITY

Instructor Details:

Instructor: Shuva Gupta
Email ID: shugupta@wharton.upenn.edu
Office: 445 JMHH
Office Hours: Tue: 12:00 Noon to 6:00 P.M.
                           Thurs: 12 Noon to 6:00 P.M.
                             Fri: 12 Noon to 5:00 P.M.
               Mon & Wed: By appointment only.
You are strongly encouraged to make use of the office hours. In case you cannot make it during the regular office hours please feel free to send me an email to work out a time of our mutual convenience.

Class Hours and Location:

Hours & Location: STAT 430-004 MW 03:00 A.M. to 4:30 A.M., SHDH 1206

Examinations, Grading and Grading Policy:

<1> The final grades for this course shall be decided on your midterm grades and your final grades.

<2> There shall be **three midterms and the lowest of the three grades shall be dropped**. Which means your course midterm grade shall be calculated on the best two midterm grades and if you choose to take any two midterms and not appear of the third one then your midterm grades for the course shall be calculated on only the two of which you have taken as you shall be assigned a 0 for the one for which you did not show up.

<3> The finals are mandatory, you cannot skip the finals.

<4> ONLINE CLASS PARTICIPATION: You are expected to read the piazza posts regularly and answer and ask questions. **5% of the class grades is assigned to online class participation.** Details of how the online class participation grades will be calculated is provided below. For your online class participation grades you are expected to do the following:
     1. Read all the piazza posts.
     2. Ask or answer a total of at least 6 questions during the course of the semester. It is advisable that you do it consistently rather than wait till the end of the semester and do it all at once, so asking or answering at least 2 questions before each midterm would be encouraged.
     3. If you follow the above two guidelines you will get full points for online class participation.

<5> The course grade shall be calculated ONLY on your online participation, midterms and your finals as 5% online participation, 55% midterms and 40% finals. That is,
     Final course grade = (average of the highest two midterm grades)*0.55 + (online class participation)*0.05 + (final grades out of 100)*0.4

<6> There shall be **no graded HW assignments** for this course but you will be provided with regular HW questions and answers which you are expected to work on. You are encouraged to ask and answer questions about these HWs on Piazza.

<7>

Midterm 1	Feb 18th	In class
Midterm 2	March 18th	In class
Midterm 3	April 22nd	In class
Finals	May 10th (6:00 PM to 8:00 PM)	TBA

EMERGENCIES AND DIFFICULTIES: Please, do not hesitate and do make an effort to communicate with the instructor if you find yourself in serious difficulty, such as family emergencies, health problems, too many deadlines at the same time, demands from jobs you are holding to finance your studies, etc.

COURSE WEBSITE:
CANVAS:
Statistics 430 uses the online system "**Canvas**". You can gain access to Canvas by going to https://canvas.upenn.edu. All materials for this course will be distributed and managed via this website, and you will be able to monitor your grade entries throughout the semester.

PIAZZA:
An important part of this course is class participation where all of you are expected to ask and answer questions. We will be using use Piazza extensively for answering your questions about homework, exams and scheduling. If you have questions, you are advised to go there first to see whether your question has already been asked and answered and, if not, to place your question so it can be answered once for everybody.
We also encourage you to answer other students' questions if you know the answer. If you give a wrong answer, it will not be held against you; someone else will place the correct answer and you can delete/edit your own post. Find our class page at:
https://piazza.com/wharton.upenn/spring2019/stat430/home

Access Code: stat430

Course Materials:

Textbook: I do not have any standard prescribed text and will provide you with regular class notes. I however do encourage you to take a look at the following books for reference and practice problems:

<1> Introduction to Probability, Statistics, and Random Processes by Hossein Pishro-Nik

Online resources, including a soft copy of this book, is available here:
https://www.probabilitycourse.com/

This is a good book to start off if you do not have any prior background in probability.

<2> Introduction to Probability (Chapman & Hall/CRC Texts in Statistical Science) 1st Edition by Joseph K. Blitzstein, Jessica Hwang. Online resources for this book can be found here:

https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/stat110/home

especially

https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/stat110/youtube

I am going to refer to this book from time to time for your HW problems, this a very well written book and covers pretty much every aspect of undergraduate probability but some of you may find it a bit difficult to follow, in that case my advice would be to try and read the first text.

A copy of this book is on reserve at the Lippincott Library Service Desk. You can borrow it for three hour time slots and copy or read and take notes as needed. **You are not required to purchase either of the prescribed books**, but you should have access to a copy for regular reading assignments. You may, for example, team up with friends to share a copy.

If the above textbooks are not sufficient, you may consult other books, there is also a growing number of online offerings on YouTube, some of them excellent.