MA 541/4632
Probability and Mathematical Statistics II

Instructor: J. D. Petruccelli
Stratton 105C
831-5362
jdp@wpi.edu
Office Hours: Tu, W 4-5, Th 10-11, F 2-3, or by appointment

1 Overview of the Course

MA 540/4632 is the second of a two course sequence on probability and mathematical statistics designed for graduate and advanced undergraduate students in the mathematical sciences. Students registered for MA 541 will study the material in greater depth and breadth. To accomplish this:

- Each MA 541 student will be required to learn and present a topic additional to those presented in MA 4632. All MA 541 students will be responsible for all topics presented.
- MA 541 students will be assigned additional homework problems (marked by *s on the assignment sheets).
- MA 541 students will be assigned some additional or different test problems.

2 Textbook and Course Materials

The textbook is Casella, G. and R. L. Berger, Statistical Inference, 2nd Edition, Duxbury, 2002. MA 4632 will cover most of chapters 6-10. MA 541 will cover virtually all of chapters 6-10 plus some additional material not in the text. All relevant course materials may be found on the course web site: http://www.math.wpi.edu/Course_Materials/MA541S04/main.html

3 Performance Measures

Two performance measures are used in MA 4632, and three in MA 541.

3.1 Homework

Homework is assigned for your benefit and practice. You are to use it as a yardstick against which to measure your understanding. You may discuss it with other class members as a check on your understanding. Note that this does not mean copying it from another class member. If you have difficulty doing the homework, seek help from the instructor. It is your responsibility to see that you understand the principles and ideas behind the homework exercises. For MA 4632 students, homework will count 25% of the semester grade; for MA 541 students 20%.

3.2 Tests

There will be two closed-book in-class tests. The first will be a 60 minute mid term test and will count 25% of the semester grade. The second, a comprehensive 150 minute exam will count 50% of the semester grade.
3.3 Presentations

MA 541 students must each make a presentation on one of a set of topics not covered in MA 4632. I will provide a list of topics for you to choose from. Each presentation should not exceed 20 minutes in length. The presentation will count 5% of the MA 541 grade.

4 Late Assignments

Unless different arrangements have been made with me ahead of time, late homework assignments will receive a grade of 0.

5 Makeup

Makeup exams will be given only in the event of serious illness or other extraordinary circumstances.

6 Special Needs Students

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have medical information to share with me, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Students with disabilities, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO), as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. The DSO is located in Daniels Hall, (508) 831-5235.