

COURSE INFORMATION

Course title:	Analyzing and Modeling Uncertainty		
Course code:	BABS 506	Credits:	1.5
Session, term, period:	2020W1, Period 1	Class location:	Online
Section(s):	BA1	Class times:	Tue/Thu 6-8pm
Course duration:	Nov 2 to Dec 4, 2020	Pre-requisites:	n/a
Division:	Operations & Logistics	Co-requisites:	n/a
Program:	MBAN		

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Hao Zhang, PhD		
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Randomness or uncertainty is an essential phenomenon in the modern business world. Probability theory provides the foundation for understanding and analyzing real-world situations and problems involving uncertainty. This course is designed to acquaint students with basic probability concepts, methods, and models. Particular emphasis is given to widely applicable probability models such as distributions of random variables and discrete-time Markov chains. Applications are drawn from various areas in business, economics, science, and technology.

COURSE FORMAT

The format of the course is based on synchronous learning and guided self-practice. We will use Zoom to conduct online classes in the scheduled time periods. Class time will be used for a combination of lectures, discussions, and solving sample problems. Attendance is expected to accomplish the learning objectives below.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain fundamental concepts, models, and methods of probability theory
2. Develop intuitions for models incorporating uncertainty
3. Build models for real-world situations involving uncertainty
4. Analyze probability models using popular tools such as the programming language R

ASSESSMENTS

Summary

<u>Component</u>	<u>Weight</u>
In-class Exercise	10%
Homework Assignments	30%
Final exam	50%
Class participation	<u>10%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Details of Assessments

Homework Assignments:

There will be weekly assignments throughout the course. You will be randomly paired with another student as a study partner for each assignment, and you should work primarily with your partner on the assignment. Submit your answers on *Canvas* by yourself before the due date of each assignment.

Final Exam:

Students are responsible for making sure they appear for the exam on time. No latecomers will be allowed. Students who fail to write the exam, without prior instructor's permission, will not be given any "make-up" exam. The exam will be open book and open notes.

This course uses Proctorio for the exam. This tool was chosen in order to address accreditation requirements and maintain academic integrity for tracking academic progress of individual students. For more information, please refer to the UBC Proctorio Student Guide. If you require accommodations for accessibility needs or technical/connectivity issues, please contact the Centre for Accessibility or your Enrolment Services Advisor.

In-class Exercises:

There will be a random number of exercises in each class. Some of them will be answered individually and be graded. Answers will be submitted through Canvas Assignments/Quizzes. For this purpose, you may use a laptop or smartphone during the class when instructed to do so.

Class Participation:

We all bring experience and knowledge into the classroom, and all class participants should share this and benefit by it. Effective class participation includes

- Being prepared for class participation
- asking questions about concepts from lectures or readings
- sharing your experience or point of view with the class
- building on points raised by others;
- clarifying issues or
- relating topics discussed to previous class discussions.

In Zoom class meetings, you may speak to the instructor or the class (if appropriate) directly when no one else is speaking. You may use the "raise hand" function to signal your willingness to speak when someone else is speaking. Chat box will not serve as the primary tool to communicate with the instructor. The in-class interactions should be both positive and courteous even when your opinions differ. Class attendance is important. Regular and punctual attendance is a necessary but not a sufficient criterion for high class participation grades.

Positive contributions to class discussion increase your score. Attending class and not speaking has neither a positive nor a negative impact on your participation grade. Failing to attend significant portions of a class session and detrimental participation (including being disrespectful to any class member) decrease your participation score.

LEARNING MATERIALS

Recommended but not required

Ross, S.M. (2009) *Introduction to Probability Models* (10th edition). Academic Press. (Chapters 1-4; other editions are acceptable.)

- This textbook is available for free at:
<http://bayanbox.ir/view/7776870545953264619/introduction-to-probability-model-S.Ross-math-cs.blog.ir.pdf>

Pishro-Nik, H. (2014) *Introduction to probability, statistics, and random processes*. Kappa Research LLC.

- This textbook is available for free at: <https://www.probabilitycourse.com>

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Missed or late assignments, and regrading of assessments

Late submissions will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

Academic Concessions

If extenuating circumstances arise, please contact the RHL Graduate School program office as early as reasonably possible, and submit an [Academic Concession Request & Declaration Form](#) <https://webforms.sauder.ubc.ca/academic-concession-rhlee>. If an academic concession is granted during the course, the student will be provided options by RHL, or by the instructor in consultation with RHL, per [UBC's policy on Academic Concession](#).

Code Plagiarism

Code plagiarism falls under the UBC policy for [Academic Misconduct](#). Students must correctly cite any code that has been authored by someone else or by the student themselves for other assignments.

Cases of "reuse" may include, but are not limited to:

- the reproduction (copying and pasting) of code with none or minimal reformatting (e.g., changing the name of the variables)
- the translation of an algorithm or a script from a language to another
- the generation of code by automatic code-generations software

An "adequate acknowledgement" requires a detailed identification of the (parts of the) code reused and a full citation of the original source code that has been reused.

Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

- Policies on assessment due prior to students joining the course (i.e., during the add/drop period).

POLICIES APPLICABLE TO COURSES IN THE ROBERT H. LEE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Attendance

Excepting extenuating circumstances, students are expected to attend 100% of their scheduled class hours. Absent students limit their own academic potential, and that of their classmates, and cause unnecessary disruption to the learning environment. Students missing more than 20% of the total scheduled class hours for a course (including classes held during the add/drop period) without having received an academic concession will be withdrawn from that course. Withdrawals, depending on timing, could result in a "W" or an "F" standing on the transcript.

Punctuality

Students are expected to arrive for classes and activities on time and fully prepared to engage. Late arrivals may be refused entry at the discretion of the instructor or activity lead. Students arriving later than halfway through a scheduled class will be treated as absent for that class.

Electronic Devices

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and cell phones are not permitted to be used in class unless directed by the instructor for in-class activities. Students who do not follow the School's policy in this regard may be required to leave the room for the remainder of the class, so that they do not distract others. Research shows that students' use of laptops in class has negative implications for the learning environment, including reducing their own grades and the grades of those sitting around them.

Citation Style

Please use the American Psychological Association (APA) reference style to cite your sources.

Details of the above policies and other RHL Policies are available at:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,199,506,1625>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC Senate website at <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>.

Respect for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The UBC Sauder School of Business strives to promote an intellectual community that is enhanced by diversity along various dimensions including status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, social class, and/or disability. It is critical that students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives be valued in and well-served by their courses. Furthermore, the diversity that students bring to the classroom should be viewed as a resource, benefit, and source of strength for your learning experience. It is expected that all students and members of our community conduct themselves with empathy and respect for others.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

Academic Freedom and Students Studying from Outside Canada

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

COPYRIGHT

All materials of this course (course handouts, lecture slides, assessments, course readings, etc.) are the intellectual property of the instructor or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline and could be subject to legal action. Any lecture recordings are for the sole use of the instructor and students enrolled in the class. In no case may the lecture recording or part of the recording be used by students for any other purpose, either personal or commercial. Further, audio or video recording of classes are not permitted without the prior consent of the instructor. Students may not share class Zoom links or invite others who are not registered to view sessions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

ONLINE TEACHING TOOL & REQUIREMENTS

This course will be taught using Zoom for synchronous classes and office hours.

For this course, you are required to use a Zoom account during synchronous classes and office hours. If you do not have a Zoom account, you can create one here: <https://zoom.us/signup>. Note: creating a Zoom account requires that you provide a first name, last name, and email address to Zoom. For privacy purposes, you may consent to using your existing email address and your real name. Alternatively, if you prefer, you may sign up using an alternative email address and an anonymized name that does not identify you (i.e. Jane Doe, jane.doe@email.com). If you have trouble creating an account, or accessing a Zoom session, please contact CLCHelp@sauder.ubc.ca. You will be required to provide the email address associated with your Zoom account in a Canvas quiz for identification purposes.

To help replicate the classroom experience, make sessions more dynamic and hold each person accountable, both students and instructors are required to have their cameras on during Zoom sessions. Students who require an accommodation with regard to the "camera on" requirement must contact their instructors in advance of the first class to discuss options. As professional graduate students,

students are expected to conduct themselves professionally by joining sessions on time, muting mics when not speaking, refraining from using any other technology when in-session, attending in business casual dress (at a minimum), and participating from a quiet environment. Content from synchronous sessions will be selectively recorded per instructor discretion and made available to students on Canvas for a maximum duration of the course length. This is done to allow students the opportunity to return to lecture content to solidify learnings.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to change with class consultation)

Class	Date	Topic	Readings or Activities	Assessments due
1	Nov 3	Preview Counting techniques Introduction to Probability Theory (Ch1) Sample space, events, probabilities	Ch1	
2	Nov 5	Conditional probabilities, probability tree, independent events	Ch1	
3	Nov 10	Bayes' rule Random Variables (Ch2) Discrete RVs, PMF, CDF, expectation, variance	Ch1, Ch2	HW1
4	Nov 12	Examples of Discrete RV: Bernoulli, binomial, geometric & Poisson; Continuous RVs, PDF, CDF, expectation, variance	Ch2	
5	Nov 17	Examples of Continuous RV: uniform, exponential & normal; Jointly distributed RVs, joint/marginal PMF/PDF/CDF	Ch2	HW2
6	Nov 19	Functions of joint RVs, independent RVs, covariance; Sample mean & variance	Ch2	
7	Nov 24	Limit theorems (Strong Law of Large Numbers, Central Limit Theorem) Conditional Probability & Expectation (Ch3) Discrete and continuous cases	Ch2, Ch3	HW3
8	Nov 26	Computing expectations and probabilities by conditioning (Law of Iterated Expectations, Law of Total Probability); Compound RVs, applications	Ch3	
9	Dec 1	Discrete-Time Markov Chains (Ch4) Introduction to stochastic processes, Markov property, transition matrix & diagram, modeling Markov chains, Chapman-Kolmogorov equations	Ch4	HW4
10	Dec 3	Classification of states (recurrent vs. transient, periodic vs. aperiodic), limiting & stationary distributions	Ch4	HW5 (by Dec 5)