

**Math 448 - Probability and Statistics, Spring 2020**  
**Course Syllabus Alterations**

**Virtual Office hours:** I will be available for virtual face-to-face office hours using Google Hangouts Meet. You can access Google Hangouts Meet using either a computer or a smart phone.

From computer: Log into your WVU account (the one associated with your mix.wvu.edu email address), and visit [meet.google.com](https://meet.google.com). Then click “Join or start a meeting.”

From phone: Download the app. It is called “Hangouts Meet by Google” for iPhones, and is called “Hangouts Meet” for Android. When you open the app, you MUST sign in with your mix.wvu.edu email address. Then hit “Enter a meeting code.”

In both cases, the meeting code you will use will be TechMathLeary. If you are not logged into Google with your mix email address, you will not be able to access the meeting!

I will be available on Hangouts Meet using that meeting code during the following times:

Mon 1-2, Tues 11-12, Wed 2-3, Thurs 12-1, Friday 12-1

I will also be available to all math students for online help Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 7pm using the meeting code TechMathHelp. Other professors will also have hours open to all students, and I will post them on the course website when I know them. Additionally, I’m willing to have virtual meetings by appointment if you let me know at least a day in advance when you would like to meet.

**Course website:** It is more important than ever that you check the course website regularly! Course information will be posted on eCampus, and also at [community.wvu.edu/~bal0018/math448S20.html](https://community.wvu.edu/~bal0018/math448S20.html)

Homework assignments will still be posted on the course website. Course announcements may also be posted on the website or sent via email. Please be sure to check the website regularly, and to regularly check the email address you have on record. You are responsible for any information posted on the course website.

**Grading:** Due to the uncertainty about how the rest of the course will go, as well as a loss of a week of time for material, there will now only be three exams during the semester instead of four exams. Also, I will be much more understanding with how I determine your final grade, and I will weight what you did in the class before the break a bit more heavily. Consider the following grading schemes:

- 15% Homework + 22% Exam 1 + 22% Exam 2 + 16% Exam 3 + 25% Final Exam
- 20% Homework + 35% (higher grade of Exam 1 and Exam 2) + 20% (higher grade of the other two exams) + 25% Final Exam

Furthermore, IF you continue to make a good effort for the rest of the semester by completing the homework assignments and taking all the exams seriously enough to show me that you have tried to continue to learn new material under these circumstances, then at the very least, you will not receive a lower letter grade than your midterm grade. Therefore, you would not be penalized for struggling to adjust to this new online instruction, but again, I will only offer this as a possibility to people who keep up their work through the rest of the semester, so it is NOT an excuse to stop trying!

**Letter Grade Cutoffs:** A: 90%, B: 80%, C: 70%, D: 60%, F: below 60%

**Homework:** Homework assignments will still be posted on the websites. Homework sections assigned during the week will be due on Fridays, and I am now asking you to take pictures of your work (or scan it into a pdf using an app such as Tiny Scanner), and email the files to me. I would like to receive your emails by the end of the day on each Friday. There will likely be about 10-12 total assignments, and your lowest 2 homework scores will be dropped from grade computation.

**Exams:** We have had two exams so far. I would still like to have a third exam, and we will definitely have a final exam. These will be open book and open note exams. I will design them to take the usual amount of time, but I will give you a longer period of time (say, 12 or 24 hours) between when I send you the questions and when I expect to receive your work by email. Tentatively, I would like to schedule the third exam for Friday, April 17. We can still try to use final exam date that was set by the university, which is Wednesday, May 6. I will give more details on accessing and completing the exams when they get closer.

**Getting Help:** This is more important than ever since we don't get to meet in person! Please feel free to email me if you have questions about the course material and can't access my live-streamed virtual office hours. And if you email me with a math problem and my answer doesn't make sense to you, let me know! It's hard to learn math just from reading, so I am going to do my best to help you out as much as I can.