



## Midterm 1: Information and Policies

PSTAT 5A: Spring 2023, with Ethan P. Marzban

### ! EXAM DATE AND LOCATION

Midterm 1 will take place from **2 - 3:15pm on Tuesday April 25, 2023** in **Embarcadero Hall** (note that this is NOT our usual classroom).

### Timing and Seating

- Please plan to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the exam.
- Exams will be passed out promptly at 2pm, and you will not be allowed to begin working on the exam until 2:05pm.
- The exam will last for **65 minutes**.
  - Nobody will be allowed to leave in the last 10 minutes of the exam, though if you finish earlier than 10 minutes from the end of the exam you are allowed to leave early.
- Seating will be assigned, and the seating chart will be posted to Canvas by **5pm on Monday April 24**.
  - If you require a left-handed desk for the midterm, please fill out [this](#) form by no later than **11:59pm on Friday, April 21**.
  - If you arrive after we begin passing out exams **DO NOT GO TO YOUR ORIGINALLY-ASSIGNED SEAT**. Instead, come see Ethan at the front of the Exam Room and he will direct you to a new seat (this is to minimize distractions while students are taking the exam).
- To summarize: here is the schedule of timing for the exam:
  - **1:45pm - 1:50pm**: Arrive at the classroom, and make your way to your seat.
  - **2:00pm**: Exams will be distributed; **do not begin working until instructed to do so**
  - **2:05pm - 3:10pm**: Work on the exam
    - \* 3:00pm: Nobody will be permitted to leave the exam room
  - **3:10pm**: Stop working on the exam
  - **3:10pm - 3:15pm**: Exams will be collected, along with your note sheet.

### Permitted Materials

- Calculator (any type is fine so long as it cannot connect to the internet)
- One **double-sided 8.5 × 11** sheet (or equivalent) of **HANDWRITTEN** notes.

- You are allowed to write your notes on your iPad, but must print them out before the exam as electronics are not permitted (see below).
  - You will be **turning in** your note sheet with your exam, so please ensure your name is written on it.
- Writing utensil (pen, pencil, etc.)

## **Prohibited Materials**

- Electronics of any kind (aside from calculators), including (but not limited to): laptops, phones, airpods, earbuds, etc.

## **Academic Integrity**

I'd like to take a moment to again stress the importance of Academic Integrity. Under no circumstances are you to discuss the contents of the exam with anyone while the exam is taking place, nor are you to receive aid from anyone (other than the Course Staff) while taking the exam. Any instance of Academic Misconduct will be persecuted to the greatest extent possible.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*How many questions will be on the exam?*

At this stage in time, I am not certain. Rest assured it will be tailored to a length that is more than doable within the 65 minutes allotted.

*What kinds of questions will be on the exam?*

The exam will consist of a mix of Multiple Choice questions, along with Free Response questions. At this point in time, I do not know exactly how many of each there will be.

*What are the topics that could potentially appear on the exam?*

Anything from the first three weeks of the quarter is potentially testable; this includes material from not only Lecture and Quizzes but also Homework and Lab.

*Will a practice exam be posted?*

Unfortunately I do not have any past exams I am authorized to distribute at this time. I will, however, be posting some additional material including a list of topics, some extra practice problems, as well as the cover-page that will be included with the midterm (you can expect to see this posted to the course website by the end of Week 3).

*How do you recommend I study for the exam?*

That is a great question, with a potentially unsatisfactory answer- it depends! Everyone studies differently, and I do not believe there is a one-size-fits-all approach to preparing for a Midterm. Having said that, here are some tips that helped me personally when I was an undergrad (and, again, keep in mind that these may not work for you!):

- Try to do as many problems as possible. The textbook (*OpenIntro Statistics*) has some good ones- Google is also your friend!
  - Also, be cognizant about *how* you're doing problems. It's tempting to skim through a problem, look at the solutions, and think "ah okay got it." A better (in my opinion) way to do a problem is to work through it *fully*, go over the solutions and identify where you made mistakes, and then *forget about the problem fully* and then return to it. If you make the same mistake as before, maybe it's time to crack open the textbook! If not- then you've clearly just *learned* a topic!
- Though the exam is meant to be completed on your own, the studying for the exam is by no means meant to be a solitary endeavor- **form study groups!** As I have said numerous times before, we can learn a lot from our peers.
  - In a similar vein- don't be afraid to attend all the Office Hours you are able to!

*Will I be required to simplify results?*

In general, the answer is 'no'. However, I may expect you to simplify certain quantities (e.g.  $\binom{n}{k}$ ); I will make it very clear when that is expected, though (e.g. the problem statement may say "simplify your answers for this part").