

MA4546: INTRODUCTION TO STOCHASTIC PROCESSES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to Stochastic Processes

Subject Code

MA - Mathematics

Course Number

4546

Academic Unit

Mathematics (MA)

College/School

College of Science (SI)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

MA2506 Probability and Statistics, or
MA2510 Probability and Statistics

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SDSC4019 Stochastic Processes and Applications

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course is an introduction to the probability models and stochastic processes (without measure theory). It aims to develop and analyse stochastic models with applications. It also provides elementary numerical methods for solving real stochastic problems.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	explain concepts of stochastic processes, Markovian property, transition probability and master equation	30	x		
2	describe the theory of discrete time and continuous time Markov process, explain the definitions and properties of Poisson process and Brownian motion.	30	x		
3	perform basic numerical methods to compute limiting distributions and mean first passage time	20		x	
4	apply basic knowledge of Markov processes to analyze stochastic problems in practice.	10			x
5	the combination of CILOs 1-4.	10		x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Learning through teaching is primarily based on lectures.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	39 hours in total
2	Take-home assignments	Learning through take-home assignments helps students understand basic concepts and theories of curves and surfaces.	1, 2, 3, 4	after-class

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Test/Midterm	1, 2, 4	15	Questions are designed for the first part of the course to see how well students have learned the concepts and theories of stochastic processes.	No
2	Quizzes	1, 2, 4, 5	15	These are skills based assessment to help students understand concepts and basic methods in stochastic models.	No
3	Formative take-home assignments	1, 2, 3, 4	10	The assignments provide students chances to demonstrate their understanding of properties of stochastic process and their achievements on stochastic modelling learned in this course.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

40

Examination (%)

60

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs

40% Coursework 60% Examination (Duration: 2 hours, at the end of the semester) For a student to pass the course, at least 30% of the maximum mark for the examination must be obtained.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Test/Midterm

Criterion

Correct application of methods and correct calculations

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. Quizzes

Criterion

Skills of solving problems

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. Formative take-home assignments

Criterion

Submission on time and independent work

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

4. Examination

Criterion

Overall performance of understanding key concepts, applying right methods and performing correct computation

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Random walk, Poisson process, Brownian motion, discrete-time and continuous-time Markov process, stationary distribution, occupancy measure, Chapman-Kolmogorov equation, master equation, first passage time, Markov Chain Monte Carlo.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Introduction to Modeling and Analysis of Stochastic Systems, Second Edition, by V.G. Kulkarni, Springer, 2011

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Understanding Markov Chains: Examples and Applications, by Nicolas Privault, Springer Undergraduate Mathematics Series, 2013.
2	Introduction to Probability Models, Tenth Edition, by Sheldon M. Ross, Academic Press, 2009
3	An Introduction to Stochastic Modeling, Third Edition, by Howard Taylor and Samuel Karlin, Academic Press, 1998