• **Instructor:** Prof. Rama T. Lingham
  
  – Office: DuSable 366 B
  – Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:00pm to 1:50pm, Friday 11:00am to 11:50am and by appointment
  – Phone: 815-753-6773
  – Email: rama@math.niu.edu (for emergencies only)

• **Required Textbook:** Ronald Christensen, et. al. (2010), Bayesian Ideas and Data Analysis – ISBN: 978-1-4398-0354-7, Published by Chapman & Hall / CRC Press.

• **Coverage of Topics:** Selected material from chapters 1 to 7 and 9 of the Text and an introduction to the R and WINBUGS softwares.

• **Course Regulations:**

  1. You may receive course information by email through MyNIU / Blackboard. Please make sure that you can open and read jpg, pdf and MS-Word 2007 files from my emails. Not checking on a daily basis, or periodic clean-up of your in-box, etc., in regard to your NIU-email are not acceptable excuses for you not to follow my instructions. Setting up to forward email from your NIU-email to other preferred email addresses, if any, may be helpful.

  2. Homework will be assigned in class or via email, and will be due at times announced. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of which assignments are due when. Make a friend or two in this class just in case you are unable to attend the lectures (see item 16 below). Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless your emergencies can be confirmed with written documentation.

  3. Assignments are to be neat and presented logically on loose-leaf paper. If more than one sheet of paper is used, the assignment must be stapled together. Please do not ask faculty for use of a stapler. Spiral paper is unacceptable. You are to show all your work. If your assignments are messy, disorganized or do not follow the stated instructions, you will not receive any credit for those assignments.

  4. The maximum possible points for all of the homework during the semester will be 100. Your homework points will be computed by first computing your average homework score for the semester as a percentage. You will then receive that percentage of the 100 points.

  5. Please note that it is unlikely that all of your homework will be graded and returned to you before the exams. You may want to make copies of your homework before turning it in.

  6. Announced quizzes will be given in the lectures. The maximum possible points for all of the quizzes during the semester will be 50. Your quiz points will be computed by first deleting the lowest score and then computing your average quiz score for the semester as a percentage. You will then receive that percentage of the 50 points. During quizzes, you are not allowed to use anything except a calculator.

  7. One mid-term and a final exam will be given in the usual classroom. The mid-term Exam is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2012 during regular class time. The Final (comprehensive) Exam is on Monday, May 7, 2012 from 4:00 pm to 5:50 pm in the usual classroom.
8. All exams are closed-book and closed-notes. You are encouraged to bring only a hand-held scientific calculator and up to two (four)-sheets of only formulas for the mid-term (final) exam. You will receive a zero if your formula sheets contain examples, home work problems and codes. However, they can include general formulas, a list of probability distributions and results we discuss in the lectures or from the book. Sharing of calculators is prohibited.

9. In STAT 579, home-work, quizzes, exams, etc will be given that may be more challenging relative to STAT 479, per policy of the graduate school.

10. There is no extra credit given in this course. Please do not even ask!

11. Grade Structure: There are a total of 400 possible points in this course, consisting of the mid-term exam (100 points), one final exam (150 points), announced quizzes (50 points total) and homework (100 points total). With a total of 400 points possible, the cut-points for the final letter grades A, B, C, and D in STAT 479 will be 340, 300, 260, and 220 points respectively. An “F” will result if your total score for the entire semester is less than 220 (cut-offs for STAT 579 are 5% more than those for STAT 479).

12. Please note that a grade of incomplete (I) may be considered for students who are passing the course, but cannot complete the course due to health or family reasons. A grade of incomplete will not be assigned to anyone who is not passing the course at the time of the request.

13. Make-up exams will not be given. If there is a serious medical problem which prevents you from taking an exam or if there is a death in the immediate family, contact me as soon as possible. In such a case where missing an exam is warranted, your final exam will be worth 250 points instead of the usual 150. Make-up quizzes may be given during the final exam, at the discretion of the instructor.

14. Please check your scores on the NIU Blackboard upon receiving them. Any discrepancies between your record and the Blackboard must be e-mailed to the grader, Mr. Qi Jiang, at jiang@math.niu.edu no later than one week from the time you receive it; after that the Blackboard data will be final. Discussions about homework etc with the grader are prohibited.

15. Due to privacy concerns, I will not discuss grades using email or the telephone. You must meet with me in person to discuss your grades.

16. Attendance: There is no mandatory attendance requirement for this class. Please note, however, that if you frequently miss class, the instructor reserves the right to deny office hour privileges to you. Further, it is your responsibility to be sure that your work is turned in and that you get the notes and announcements, if any, from a student in the class. My notes will not be available to students.

17. All university regulations regarding academic misconduct will be followed in this class. Evidence of academic misconduct will be forwarded to the Northern Illinois University judicial system and may result in a failing grade for the course or expulsion from the university.

18. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see me and the staff at the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR) located at the Health Services Building as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

19. The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced.