Instructor: Prof. Rama T. Lingham

- Office: DuSable 359 E
- Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 3:30pm to 4:20pm, Friday 11:00am to 11:50am and by appointment
- Phone: 815-753-6799
- Email: rama@math.niu.edu (for emergencies only)

TA: Philippe Dovoedo

Email: z1690534@students.niu.edu
Recitation: T 6-6:50 pm
Room: DuSable 276
Office Hour: to be announced

1. Required Textbooks/Resources:


b) *Exam P, Question and Answer Bank (2013 Exams)*, BPP.

2. Coverage of Topics: Selected material from all chapters of the Text by Carr et.al.

3. Other resources

a) The Blackboard (https://webcourses.niu.edu/) will be used to make announcements and post supplemental materials.

b) Syllabus, study materials, and other important information of Exam P can be found at the following website:


4. Learning outcomes for STAT 481: Read the pdf at the link below.


5. Course philosophy:

   The lectures aim at motivating and explaining key concepts of the learning objectives of this course. However, only understanding the concepts and being able to solve problems without a time frame is not sufficient for achieving success in this course, or in the SOA/CAS Exam P/1. You are expected to do lots of practice problems after class, and to be able to solve problems accurately and quickly, which is also critical for your future success in professional actuarial exams. The recitations complement the lectures in regard to helping you to solve problems relevant to Exam P/1.

Course Regulations:

6. You may receive course information by email through MyNIU/Blackboard. Please make sure that you can open and read jpg, pdf and MS-Word 2010 files from my emails. Not checking on a daily basis your NIU-email is not an acceptable excuse 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.
7. **Approved calculators:**
   a) The following calculators are the approved ones for SOA exams: BA-35; BA II Plus; BA II Plus Professional; TI-30Xa; TI-30X II (IIS solar or IIB battery); TI-30XS MultiView (or XB battery).
   b) You are required to use one of these calculators for homework, quizzes and exams; no other calculators are allowed in the midterm and final exams. You are also required to bring your SOA approved calculator to ALL lectures and recitations.

8. **Exams / quizzes / homework:**
   a) The following is the schedule for the exams. Alternate exam times will not be offered, so please resolve any conflicts, if any, now! Make-up exams will not be given. If there is a serious health problem that prevents you from taking an exam or if there is a death in the immediate family, contact the instructor as soon as possible to learn what options you would be offered. The topics to be covered in the midterms will be announced in advance. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering the topics of the whole course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>DU 452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>DU 452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>DU 452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   b) Homework will be assigned in class or via email, and will be due at times announced. It is the responsibility of students 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.
   c) 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.
   d) The maximum possible points for all of the homework during the semester will be 50. 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 50 points.
   e) 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.
   f) There usually will be a quiz during each recitation session. The maximum possible points for all of the quizzes during the semester will be 100. Your quiz points will be computed by first computing your average quiz score for the semester as a percentage. You will then receive that percentage of the 100 points.
   g) All exams and quizzes will be taken closed book/notes. Some questions from homework and quizzes will also appear in the exams with modifications.
   h) There is no extra credit given in this course. Please do not even ask!
   i) 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 TA no later than one week from the time you receive it; after that the Blackboard data will be final.
   j) In STAT 581, home-work, quizzes, and exams may be more challenging relative to what I give in STAT 481, per policy of the graduate school.
9. **Evaluation:**

a) There are 500 possible points distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) **Grade Structure:** The final course grade is based on the percentage of 500 maximum points that you earn in this paired course. For students in STAT 481, a scale of 86%, 83%, 79%, 76%, 73%, 69%, 66%, 54%, will be used as cut-points for the grades A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D respectively; an F grade will result if you score less than 54%.

c) Please note that a grade of incomplete (I) may be considered for students who are passing the course, but cannot complete the course due only to documentable 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.

10. NIU’s updated policies on Academic Integrity and Attendance for ALL students, and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, are now available at

   [http://www.niu.edu/stat/courses/pdfs/Accessibility_Statement.pdf](http://www.niu.edu/stat/courses/pdfs/Accessibility_Statement.pdf)

   Please read carefully this important document, as your full compliance with the updated policies in this document is required in this class.

11. **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 on-time and that you get the lecture notes and announcements, if any, from a student in the class. My notes will not be available to students.

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