



Midterm 1: Information and Policies

PSTAT 5A: Sum. Sess. A 2023, with Ethan P. Marzban

! EXAM DATE AND LOCATION

Midterm 1 will take place from **11am - 12:20pm on Thursday July 6** in **ILP 1101** (which is our regular lecture classroom).

Timing and Seating

- Please plan to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the exam.
- Exams will be passed out promptly at 11am, and you will not be allowed to begin working on the exam until 11:03am.
- The exam will last for **75 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 will be allowed to leave early.
- Seating will be assigned, and the seating chart will be posted to Canvas by **5pm on Wednesday July 5**.
 - 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:
 - **10:45am - 10:50am**: Arrive at the classroom, and make your way to your seat.
 - **11:00am**: Exams will be distributed; **do not begin working until instructed to do so**
 - **11:03am - 12:18pm**: Work on the exam
 - * 12:08pm: Nobody will be permitted to leave the exam room
 - **12:18pm**: Stop working on the exam
 - **12:18pm - 12:20pm** Exams will be collected.

Permitted Materials

- Calculator (any type is fine so long as it cannot connect to the internet.)
- Writing utensil (pen, pencil, etc.)

Prohibited Materials

- Note sheets of any kind.
 - You will be provided with a formula sheet, along with scratch paper.

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 75 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 two 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?

You can access a copy of the Spring 2023 Midterm 1 on the course website. Please note that the format for the exam this quarter will be slightly different, in that you will be required to write your answers to the Multiple Choice questions on a scantron. I will also be posting some additional material including a list of topics, some extra practice problems, as well as the cover-pages (for the Multiple Choice and Free Response booklets) that will be included with the midterm.

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”).