

AMS 522: Bayesian Methods in Finance

Spring 2021

Credits and Grading: 3 credits, ABCF grading

Instructor: Stan Uryasev, Math Tower, 148 B, stanislav.uryasev@stonybrook.edu

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:30, or by appointment, by using Zoom.

Course Web Site and Blackboard: Refer to Blackboard, where course notes, articles, solutions and slides will be posted, and videos of lectures available through EchoCenter.

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00PM -4:30PM by using Zoom.

Teaching Assistant: Cheng Peng, e-mail: cheng.peng.1@stonybrook.edu

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 13:00-14:00 by using Zoom.

Text:

Required: "*Bayesian Methods in Finance*" by S. Rachev, J. Hsu, B. Bagasheva, and F. Fabozzi, Wiley 2008; ISBN: 978-0-471-92083-0 .

Supplemental Reading: "*Risk and Asset Allocation*" by Attilio Meucci; Springer Finance, June 30, 2009; ISBN: 978-3642009648 .

Course notes will be provided for several modules which are not covered in the books.

Prerequisites: AMS 512 Capital Markets & Portfolio Theory. Also, basic knowledge of high-level programming environments: MATLAB or R (or a strong desire to learn).

Policies:

- Attendance at lecture periods will not be taken. However, it is strongly recommended to attend lectures, if you want to get a good grade.
- For in-class lecture periods, please silence your phone (and other electronic devices) beforehand.
- For online lecture periods and recitations, please mute your microphone unless you are speaking or otherwise directly participating in the discussion.

Information Dissemination:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this is a hybrid course delivered in both a traditional, face-to-face setting (before March 23) and a distance-learning setting (beginning March 23). In both cases the Blackboard learning management system will be used. See the "Technical Requirements" section for more information. In Blackboard, you will access course materials and resources.

Technical Requirements

This course uses Blackboard (<https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>) to facilitate communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting grades. If you are unsure of your NetID, visit <https://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/finding-your-netid-and-password> for more information. You are responsible for having a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the term. The following list details a minimum recommended computer set-up and the software packages you will need to access and use:

Hardware:

- PC (Windows 7, 8, or 10) or Macintosh (OS X/macOS 10.10 or higher).
- 4 GB RAM.-A high-speed internet connection.
- Speakers (either internal or external) or headphones. Headphones are strongly recommended to reduce the risk of feedback during communications.
- Microphone (either internal or external).
- WebCam or other camera (interfacing with your computer) for producing video.

Software (additional tools may be needed). Remember to use your Stony Brook email or NetID when configuring specialized software:

- An up-to-date Internet browser, such as Chrome, Firefox, Explorer/Edge (Windows), or Safari (macOS). A complete list of supported browsers and operating systems can be found on the MyInstitution page when you log in to Blackboard.
- PDF viewer, such as Adobe Reader.
- Zoom. Stony Brook has a site license for Zoom; you can find information on downloading, installing, and using Zoom: <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/zoom/students>

Exams: This class does not have exams. Grading is based on homeworks and the project.

Homeworks: Homeworks covering main material of the course will be graded. Also, students will present solutions of some homeworks in the class. For homework problems, you are expected to write up your solutions *on your own*, **without referring to other students' writeups or to solutions you may find on the web**; you are welcome to discuss the problems with TA, and classmates, but **must do the writeup entirely on your own**.

Project: Every student will do a project and present in the class. The project (case study) should use learned numerical techniques. Also, students review projects of their peers and present the review report in the class.

Grades: We will use your total average score to assign a letter grade; there is no pre-established scale or curve. It is expected that 40-50% of students receive A/A-, and 40-50% receive B+/B/B- grades (with a few outliers having lower grades).

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Homework	50%
Project	40% (see project requirements)
Project review	10%
Total	100%

100%

Course Objectives

The course presents Bayesian and entropy maximization methodologies for estimation probabilistic distributions and their applications in portfolio and risk management. It focuses on, among other topics, incorporating the prior views of analysts and investors into the asset allocation process, estimating and predicting volatility, improving risk forecasts, and combining the conclusions of different models. Numerical exercises and projects in a high-level programming environment will be assigned.

List of Course Topics:

- Likelihood Function and Bayes Theorem
- Predictive Inference: Prior and Posterior Analysis
- Bayesian Framework for Portfolio Allocation
- Black-Litterman Portfolio Selection
- Entropy Pooling Approach
- Entropy Maximization and Application to CDO Pricing
- Checkerboard Copula and Applications in Insurance Industry
- Renyi Entropy and Regression of Distribution Tail

Student Accessibility Support Center (SASC) Statement: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, 128

ECC Building, (631) 632-6748, or via e-mail at: sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity Statement: Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

Critical Incident Management Statement: Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

Student Absences Statement: Students are expected to attend every class, report for examinations and submit major graded coursework as scheduled. If a student is unable to attend lecture(s), report for any exams or complete major graded coursework as scheduled due to extenuating circumstances, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students may be requested to provide documentation to support their absence and/or may be referred to the Student Support Team for assistance. Students will be provided reasonable accommodations for missed exams, assignments or projects due to significant illness, tragedy or other personal emergencies. In the instance of missed lectures or labs, the student is responsible for *insert course specific information here (examples include: review posted slides, review recorded lectures, seek notes from a classmate or identified class note taker, write lab report based on sample data)*. Please note, all students must follow Stony Brook, local, state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID. For questions or more information click [here](#).