PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

23490, CHEG 2301-P01 Materials Science
Spring 2024

Course Information   Description

Instructor:	Dr. Keisha Antoine
Section # and CRN:	P01; 23490
Office Location:	C.L. Wilson Rm 201E
Office Phone:	936-261-9407
Email Address:	keantoine@pvamu.edu
Office Hours:	MWF 9:30 – 10:30 am, 2 – 3 pm (and by appointment)
Mode of Instruction:	Face to Face
Course Location:	Gilchrist Rm 104
Class Days & Times:	MWF 11 – 11:50 pm
Catalog Description:	***CHEG 2301 Materials Science: 3 semester hours.*** Chemical bonding, atomic order and disorder, transport properties, single phase and multiphase materials, heat treatment, corrosion, and composites.
Prerequisites:	(CHEM 1304 or CHEM 1043) or (CHEM 1403 or CHEM 1034).
Co-requisites:	None
Required Text(s):	Materials Science and Engineering, An Introduction, 10th Edition or later, William D. Callister, Jr., David G. Rethwisch, Wiley, ISBN-13 9781119321590
Recommended Text(s):	"The Science & Engineering of Materials", 4th Edition, Donald R. Askeland, Pradeep P. Phulé, Thomson, Brooks/Cole ISBN 0-534-95373-5

Course Learning Objectives:

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Student Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Objective Alignment
1	Chapter 1 • List six different property classifications of materials that determine their applicability. • Cite the four components that are involved in the design, production and utilization of materials and briefly describe the interrelationships. • Cite three criteria that are important in the materials selection process.	PEO 1	D1
2	Chapter 2 • Plot a schematic of attractive, repulsive and net energies versus interatomic separation for two atoms or ions. Note on this plot the equilibrium separation and the bonding energy. • Describe ionic, covalent, metallic, hydrogen and van der Waals bonds and note which materials exhibit each of these bonding types.	PEO 1	D1

	• Describe the difference in atomic/molecular structure between crystalline and non-crystalline materials.		
3	Chapter 3 • Draw unit cells for face-centered cubic and body-centered cubic crystal structures. • Derive the relationships between unit cell edge length and atomic radius for face-centered cubic and body-centered cubic crystal structures. • Compute the densities for metals having face-centered cubic and body-centered cubic crystal structures given their unit cell dimensions. • Given three direction index integers, sketch the direction corresponding to these indices within a unit cell. • Specify the Miler indices for a plane that has been drawn within a unit cell. • Distinguish between single crystals and polycrystalline materials. • Define isotropy and anisotropy with respect to material properties.	PEO 1	D1
4	Chapter 4 • Describe both vacancy and self-interstitial crystalline defects. • Calculate the equilibrium number of vacancies in a material at some specified temperature, given the relevant constants. • Name the two types of solid solutions and provide a brief written definition and a schematic sketch of each. • Calculate the weight percent and atom percent for each element, given the masses and atomic weights of two or more elements in a metal alloy. • List the different types of dislocations (edge, screw and mixed) and be able to recognize them from sketches.	PEO 1	D1
5	Chapter 5 • Name and describe the two atomic mechanisms of diffusion. • Distinguish between steady-state and non-steady-state diffusion • Know how to apply Fick's first and second laws for different diffusion processes. • Calculate the diffusion coefficient for a material at a specified temperature, given the appropriate diffusion constants	PEO 1	D1
6	Chapter 6 • Define engineering stress and engineering strain. • State Hooke's law and note the conditions under which it is valid. • Apply Poisson's ratio. • Determine the a) modulus of elasticity, b) yield strength (0.002 strain offset), c) tensile strength and d) estimate the percent elongation when given an engineering stress-strain diagram. • Describe changes in specimen profile to the point of fracture for the tensile deformation of a ductile cylindrical specimen. • Compute ductility in terms of both percentage elongation and percentage reduction in area for a material that is loaded in tension to fracture. • Name the two most common hardness testing techniques; note two differences between them. • Compute the working stress for a ductile material.	PEO 1	D1
7	Chapter 7 • Describe how plastic deformation occurs by the motion of edge and screw dislocations in response to applied shear stress. • Define slip system and cite one example. • Describe how the grain structure of a polycrystalline metal is altered when it is plastically deformed.	PEO 1	D1

• Explain how grain boundaries impede dislocation motion and why a metal having small grains is stronger than one having large grains. • Describe and explain solid-solution strengthening for substitutional impurity atoms in terms of lattice strain iterations with dislocations. • Describe recrystallization in terms of both the alteration of microstructure and mechanical characteristics of the material. • Describe the phenomenon of grain growth from both macroscopic and atomic perspectives.		
Chapter 8 • Describe the mechanism of crack propagation for both ductile and brittle modes of fracture. • Name the two impact fracture testing techniques. • Define fatigue and specify the conditions under which it occurs. • Determine the a) the fatigue lifetime (at a specified stress level) and b) the fatigue strength (at a specified number of cycles) from a fatigue plot for some material. • Define creep and specify the conditions under which it occurs. • Determine the a) steady-state creep rate and b) the rupture lifetime given a creep plot for some material.	PEO 1	D1
Chapter 9 • Solubility limit • Phases • Phase equilibria • Interpretation of phase diagrams – one-component (unary) and binary ○ Determination of phase compositions and phase amounts • The Gibbs Phase Rule	PEO 1	D1
Chapter 10 • Kinetics of phase transformations • Metastable vs. equilibrium states	PEO 1	D1

ABET OUTCOMES:
Course Outcome D1: This outcome is the same as program outcome 8.
Students will have an ability to identify, formulate, and solve fundamental engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics.

The two performance criteria used to assess this outcome consist of
1. Ability to identify, sketch, or discuss concepts associated with chemical engineering.
Students are able to:
(i)   Discuss or present the role of engineers in society, career opportunities, career paths, job environment, and performance expectations.
(ii)   Discuss the ethical and professional responsibilities of chemical engineers.
(iii)   Describe the different chemical processes and how the processes operate.
(iv)   Effectively communicate ideas using both oral and written communications while avoiding dishonesty and plagiarism.
(v)   Prepare a simple report discussing in class experiments.
(vi)   Create a process flow diagram, flow chart, or Gantt chart using Visio.

2. Ability to formulate fundamental chemical engineering concepts such as mass, mole, composition, density and molecular weight.
Given a problem, the student is able to:
(i)   Perform unit conversions given a conversion table.
(ii) Convert a given value from mass to moles or moles to mass using molecular weight.
(iii) Write values using the correct number of significant figures.
(iv) Depict a number using scientific notation.

3. Ability to solve fundamental chemical engineering problems using engineering problem solving strategies and computer applications software.

Given a problem, the student is able to:
  (i) Input formulas and perform calculations using Excel or Matlab.
  (ii) Calculate mass fractions or mole fractions given mass/mole amounts.
  (iii) Determine an unknown species through a hands-on density calculation based on measured mass and volume.

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value	Total
1. Homework	10	10
2. Quizzes	20	20
3. Participation-Discussion Posts, In-session chats	5	5
4. Exams/Group Projects	40	40
5. Final Exam	25	25
Total:		**100**

Grading Criteria and Conversion:
A = 90-100 points
B = 80-89 points
C = 70-79 points
D = 60-69 points
F = 59 points and below

A signifies that the student has mastered the subject matter and understands all concepts covered.
B signifies that the student has a good understanding of the subject matter with few exceptions.
C signifies that the student has an adequate understanding of the material and can follow most concepts.
D signifies that the student does not understand important class concepts needed to be successful in future courses.
F signifies that the student has missed significant assignments or does not understand several concepts.

If a student has stopped attending the course (i.e. "stopped out") at any point after the first day of class but did not officially withdraw from the course and has missed assignments and exams and performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of FN (failed-non attendance) will be assigned for the final course grade to ensure compliance with the federal Title IV financial aid regulations. In contrast, if the student has completed all assignments and exams, but performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of F will be assigned for the final course grade.

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement	Description
1.Homework	The homework assignments will allow students to gain understanding of the aforementioned learning outcomes.
2.Group Projects (1)	Groups of 3 – 5 students assigned a particular topic for presentation in the class.
3.Quizzes	The quizzes will be administered online and will test student knowledge of the learning outcomes
4.Exams	Exams will be administered online and will test student knowledge of the learning outcomes. One of the exams may be a group project.
5.Final Exam	The Final Exam will be administered online and will be a comprehensive exam to test student knowledge of the learning outcomes.

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Tests & Testing Policy
All tests are open book and open notes. Make-up exams are only available for students with university excused absences. In most cases, the make-up exam is given BEFORE the student misses the exam. No collaboration among students is allowed during the exam. No electronic devices will be allowed including iPads and eReaders. No graphing or programmable calculators are allowed for any test or quiz. Students must purchase a small scientific calculator to use on exams. A cell phone cannot be used as a replacement for a calculator on an exam. Doing so will result in a zero. No bathroom breaks are allowed during a test. If a student leaves the room during this time, their exam/quiz will be collected and considered finished by the student. Any act of cheating will result in a grade of zero for that student, and the student will be referred to the department head. Such meetings must take place within a week of the violation.

Homework Policy & Guidelines
This course involves the usage of computer software. ***Students must submit these assignments BEFORE the beginning of class.*** If a student chooses to disobey the university's honor code and copy the solution manual instead of submitting the student's own independent work, the student will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and will be referred to the department head. Such meetings must take place within a week of the infraction. Staple assignment if it is more than one page. Write your name, date, and assignment number on the front page. Homework is due at the beginning of the class period. ***Late homework assignments will NOT be accepted.***

Class Activities And Participation
Classes are hybrid and as such will be administered in face-to-face format and internet-synchronous online sessions over ZOOM. Given the pandemic, additional flexibility is permitted to allow for a HyFlex approach to Hybrid courses as well, e.g., the 15% minimum Face-to-Face component may be satisfied using synchronous Zoom-based meetings. Thus, ALL classes will be delivered in internet-synchronous online sessions over ZOOM, and these sessions will count towards the face-to-face requirement. Additionally, all sessions will be recorded and posted to Canvas. Students are expected to attend class sessions on a regular basis and are expected to participate in classroom discussions. Students must submit these assignments during a given time frame.

Semester Calendar (Assignments and Due Dates are subject to change)

Modules	Topic	Assignment/Activity (Due Date)
Module 1	Course Introduction; Meet & Greet; Review of Syllabus; Introduction to Materials Science	Review the syllabus Chapter 1 (January 17th)
Module 2	Atomic Structure	Chapter 2 *Week 1*
Module 3	Atomic and Ionic Arrangements	Chapter 3 *Week 2* Test 1
Module 4	Imperfections in Solids	Chapter 4 *Week 3*
Module 9	Phase diagrams	Chapter 9 Week 4, 5
Module 5	Atom and ion movements in materials	Chapter 5 Week 5, 6 Test 2
Module 6	Mechanical Properties of Materials	Chapter 6 Week 7, 8
Module 7	Deformation and Strengthening Mechanism	Chapter 7 Week 9, 10
Module 8	Deformation and Strengthening Mechanism	Chapter 8 Week 11, 12 Test 3 (likely)
Module 10	Phase transformations	Chapter 10 Week 13, 14
	Final Exam Review	Week 15, 16
Final Exam		TBD

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library
The John B. Coleman Library's mission is to enhance the scholarly pursuit of knowledge, to foster intellectual curiosity, and to promote life-long learning and research through our innovative services, resources, and cultural programs, which support the Prairie View A&M University's global mission of teaching, service, and research. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. Library Website Phone: 936-261-1500

Academic Advising Services
Academic Advising Services offers students various services that contribute to student success and lead toward graduation. We assist students with understanding university policies and procedures that affect academic progress. We support the early alert program to help students connect to success early in the semester. We help refer students to the appropriate academic support services when they are unsure of the best resource for their needs. Faculty advisors support some students in their respective colleges. Your faculty advisor can be identified in PantherTracks. Advisors within Academic Advising Services are available to all students. We are located across campus. Find your advisor's location by academic major on the advising website. Phone: 936-261-5911

The University Tutoring Center
The University Tutoring Center (UTC) offers free tutoring and academic support to all registered PVAMU students. The mission of the UTC is to help provide a solid academic foundation that enables students to become confident, capable, independent learners. Competent and caring staff and peer tutors guide students in identifying, acquiring, and enhancing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to reach their desired goals. Tutoring and academic support are offered face-to-face in the UTC and virtually in online sessions. Other support services available for students include Supplemental Instruction, Study Breaks, Academic Success Workshops, and Algebra Study Jam. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 307; Phone: 936-261-1561; Email: pvtutoring@pvamu.edu; University Tutoring Website

Writing Center
The Writing Center provides well-trained peer tutors to assist students with writing assignments at any stage of the writing process. Tutors help students with various writing tasks from understanding assignments, brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, researching, and integrating sources. Students have free access to Grammarly online writing assistance. Grammarly is an automated proofreading and plagiarism detection tool. Students must register for Grammarly by using their student email address. In addition, students have access to face-to-face and virtual tutoring services either asynchronously via email or synchronously via Zoom. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 209; Phone: 936-261-3724; Writing Center Website, Grammarly Registration

Panther Navigate
Panther Navigate is a proactive system of communication and collaboration between faculty, academic advisors, and students that is designed to support student success by promptly identifying issues and allowing for intervention. Panther Navigate helps students by providing a central location to schedule advising appointments, view campus resources, and request assistance. Students who recognize that they have a problem that negatively affects their academic performance or ability to continue school may self-refer an academic early alert. To do so, students will log in to Canvas and click on Student Alerts on the left sidebar within a course. Students also have the option to download the Navigate Student app. Phone: 936-261-5902; Panther Navigate Website

Student Counseling Services
The Student Counseling Services offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and assists students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Hobart Taylor, 2nd floor; Phone: 936-261-3564; Health & Counseling Center Website

Office of Testing Services

The Office of Testing Services serves to facilitate and protect the administration of educational and professional exams to aid students, faculty, staff, and the community in their academic and career goals. We provide proctoring services for individuals who need to take exams for distance or correspondence courses for another institution, exams for independent study courses, or make-up exams. In order for a proctored exam to be administered by our office, the instructor of the course must first submit the online PVAMU Testing Services – Test Proctoring Form (this form can only be completed by the instructor) to the Office of Testing Services 72 hours prior to the first exam being administered. Once the Test Proctoring Form has been submitted, the instructor will inform their testers so they can then register for an appointment with our office on one of the selected proctored exam test dates within the testing window for the exam and pay the applicable fees. To access the OTS – Test Proctoring Form, to schedule a proctored exam appointment, or to find more information about our proctoring services, please visit the OTS – Proctoring Service website. Location: Wilhelmina Delco, 3rd Floor, Rm. 305; Phone: 936-261-3627; Email: aetesting@pvamu.edu; Testing Website

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services. As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, Livescribe, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Hobart Taylor, Rm. 1D128; Phone: 936-261-3583; Disability Services Website

Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS)

Distance Learning, also referred to as Distance Education, is the employment of alternative instructional delivery methods to extend programs and services to persons unable to attend classes in the traditional manner. CIITS supports student learning through online, hybrid, web-assist, and 2-way video course delivery. For more details and contact information, visit CIITS Student Website. Phone: 936-261-3283 or email: ciits@pvamu.edu.

Veteran Affairs

Veteran Services works with student veterans, current military, and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall, Rm. 102; Phone: 936-261-3563; Veteran Affairs Website

Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development, and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center, Rm. 221; Phone: 936-261-1340; Student Engagement Website

Center for Careers & Professional Development

This center supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The center provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the center website for information regarding services provided. Location: Anderson Hall, 2nd floor; Phone: 936-261-3570; Center for Careers & Professional Development Website

University Rules and Procedures

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is defined as any form of cheating or dishonesty that has the effect or intent of interfering with any academic exercise or fair evaluation of a student's performance. The college faculty can provide additional information, particularly related to a specific course, laboratory, or assignment.

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with the *University Administrative Guidelines on Academic Integrity*, which can be found on the Academic Integrity webpage. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures. As listed in the *University Administrative Guidelines on Academic Integrity*, the University Online Catalog, and the Student Code of Conduct, the following are examples of prohibited conduct. This list is not designed to be all-inclusive or exhaustive. In addition to academic sanctions, any student found to have committed academic misconduct that is also a violation of criminal law may also be subject to disciplinary review and action by the Office of Student Conduct (as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct).

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: Deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not learned, giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations. Examples: unauthorized use of notes for a test; using a "cheat sheet" on a quiz or exam; any alteration made on a graded test or exam which is then resubmitted to the teacher;

2. Plagiarism: Careless or deliberate use of the work or the ideas of another; representation of another's work, words, ideas, or data as your own without permission or appropriate acknowledgment. Examples: copying another's paper or answers, failure to identify information or essays from the internet and submitting or representing it as your own; submitting an assignment which has been partially or wholly done by another and claiming it as yours; not properly acknowledging a source which has been summarized or paraphrased in your work; failure to acknowledge the use of another's words with quotation marks;

3. Collusion: When more than one student or person contributes to a piece of work that is submitted as the work of an individual;

4. Conspiracy: Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of academic/scholastic dishonesty; and

5. Multiple Submission: Submission of work from one course to satisfy a requirement in another course without explicit permission. Example: using a paper prepared and graded for credit in one course to fulfill a requirement and receive credit in a different course.

PVAMU's General Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools in the Classroom

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI), specifically foundational models that can create writing, computer code, and/or images using minimal human prompting, are increasingly becoming pervasive. Even though ChatGPT is one of the most well-known GAIs currently available, this statement includes any and all past, current, and future generations of GAI software. Prairie View A&M University expects that all work produced for a grade in any course, be it face-to-face or virtual, will be the sole product of a student's endeavors to meet those academic goals. However, should an instructor permit their students to use artificial intelligence as a resource or tool, students must not substitute the substance of their original work with the results of using such GAI tools. This clearly violates the University's Administrative Guidelines on Academic Integrity and its underlying academic values.

Nonacademic Misconduct

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. The Office of Student Conduct will adjudicate such incidents under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual harassment of students and employees at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating the university's sexual harassment policy will be subject to disciplinary action. In accordance with the Texas A&M University System guidelines, your instructor is obligated to report to the Office of Title IX Compliance (titleixteam@pvamu.edu) any instance of sexual misconduct involving a student, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which the instructor becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. The faculty and staff of PVAMU actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like assistance or have questions, they may contact the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Zakiya Brown, at 936-261-2144 or titleixteam@pvamu.edu. More information can be found at Title XI Website, including confidential resources available on campus.

Protections and Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces, among other statutes, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. This protection includes those who may be pregnant and parenting. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy or parenting should contact the Office of Title IX for information, resources, and support at titleixteam@pvamu.edu. Additional information and/or support may be provided by the Office of Disability Services or the Office of the Dean of Students.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Prairie View A&M University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity in its programs and activities. The University is committed to supporting students and complying with The Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of discrimination or harassment, we encourage you to report it. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Director of Equal Opportunity & Diversity has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Harrington Science Building, Suite 109, or by phone at 936-261-1744 or 1792.

Class Attendance Policy (See the University Online Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports the full academic development of each learner, whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or the Internet. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in the assignment of a grade of "F." Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences

Prairie View A&M University recognizes that there are a variety of legitimate circumstances in which students will miss coursework and that accommodations for makeup work will be made. If a student's absence is **excused**, the instructor must either provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam, or other work contributing to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. Students are encouraged to work with instructors to complete makeup work before known scheduled absences (University-sponsored events, administrative proceedings, etc.). Students are responsible for planning their schedules to avoid excessive conflicts with course requirements.

Absence Verification Process

All non-athletic absences (e.g., Medical, Death/Funeral, Court/Legal-related, etc.) for which a student seeks to obtain a valid excuse must be submitted to the Dean of Students/Office of Student Conduct, with supporting documentation, for review and verification. Please use the Online Reporting Forms to access/complete/submit the *Request for a University Excused Absence* form for an excuse. Upon receipt, a staff member will verify the documentation and provide an official university excuse, if applicable. The student is responsible for providing the official university

excuse issued by the Office for Student Conduct to the professor(s). Questions should be directed to the Dean of Students via email: deanofstudents@pvamu.edu or phone: (936) 261-3550 or Office for Student Conduct via email: studentconduct@pvamu.edu or phone: (936) 261-3524.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rest with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the University Online Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Technical Considerations

Minimum **Recommended Hardware and Software:**
- Intel PC or laptop with Windows 10 or later version; Mac with OS Catalina
- Smartphone or iPad/tablet with wi-fi*
- High-speed internet access
- 8 GB memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 1024 x 768, color
- Speakers (internal or external)
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the web browser preferences

* Some courses may require remote proctoring. At this time only Chromebooks, laptops, and desktops running Windows or Mac work with our proctoring solution, but iPads are not compatible. Most other applications will work with Android or Apple tablets and smartphones.

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Acrobat PDF Reader
- Windows or Mac OS
- Video conferencing software (Zoom)

Netiquette (online etiquette)

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussion boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. Do not use ALL CAPS for communicating to others AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING. Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you." Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons. Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post, and the message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.

Video Conferencing Etiquette

When using Zoom, WebEx, or other video conferencing tools, confirm the visible area is tidy, clear of background clutter, inappropriate or offensive posters, and other distractions. Ensure you dress appropriately and avoid using high traffic or noisy areas. Stay muted when you are not speaking and avoid eating/drinking during the session. Before the class session begins, test audio, video, and lighting to alleviate technology issues.

Technical Support

Students should go to Password Reset Tool if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services at 936-261-3283 or email ciits@pvamu.edu.

Communication Expectations and Standards

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can occur in a seminar fashion. The use of the discussion board will accomplish this. The instructor will determine the exact use of discussion boards.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application such as Word and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, copy and paste to the discussion board.

COVID-19 Campus Safety Measures

In accordance with the latest guidelines from the PVAMU Health Services, the following measures are in effect until further notice.

- Students who are ill will be asked to adhere to best practices in public health, such as masking, handwashing, and social distancing, to help reduce the spread of illness across campus.
- Mandatory self-reporting will no longer be required by students. Students will be responsible for communicating with their professors regarding COVID, similarly to any other illness.
- There will be no mandatory isolation. Students who are too ill to engage in classroom activities will be responsible for securing the appropriate documentation to support the absence.
- Students who self-isolate will be responsible for communicating with their professors and securing an excuse from Student Conduct.
- All students will have access to TimelyCare, a telehealth platform that provides virtual medical care 24/7 and by appointment in the Student Health Clinic. Students are encouraged to enroll with TimelyCare at the beginning of the semester, at timelycare.com/pvamu.
- Students will have access to COVID testing in the Student Health Clinic by appointment. Testing is for students who are symptomatic ONLY.