



**CPSY 7375  
SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY**

**Spring 2024**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Temilola Salami
<b>Section # and CRN:</b>	P01 24914 Systems of Psychotherapy
<b>Office Location:</b>	Don Clark Room 253
<b>Office Phone:</b>	936-261-5266 (e-mail is the best way to reach me)
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:tesalami@pvamu.edu">tesalami@pvamu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	W 12-2pm and F 1:30-3:30pm by Appointment (Additional times available. Please e-mail me to set up an appointment)
<b>Mode of Instruction:</b>	Face to Face
<b>Course Location:</b>	Juvenile Justice & Psyc Bldg 362
<b>Class Days &amp; Times:</b>	W: 9:00am - 11:50am
<b>Catalog Description:</b>	<p><b><i>CPSY 7375 Systems of Psychotherapy</i></b> This course will include contemporary approaches in clinical psychology and a comprehensive treatment of the historical antecedents of selected theories and systems of psychology. It will also explore the theory, research, and practice of major systems of psychotherapy including humanistic, psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, and family systems approaches. The underlying assumptions about human nature and knowledge that form the foundation of these theories will also be examined with special consideration given to cultural issues throughout the course.</p>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	None
<b>Required Texts/Readings:</b>	<p>Prochaska, J. O., &amp; Norcross, J. C. (2013/2018). <i>Systems of psychotherapy: A transtheoretical analysis</i> (8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.</p> <p>Lilienfeld, S. O., &amp; O'Donohue, W. T. (Eds.; 2012). <i>Great readings in clinical science: Essential selections for mental health professionals</i>. Boston, MA: Pearson.</p> <p>Whaley, A. L., &amp; Davis, K. E. (2007). Cultural competence and evidence-based practice in mental health services: A complementary perspective. <i>American Psychologist</i>, 62, 563-574.</p>
<b>Recommended texts:</b>	<p>Bernal, G., Jiménez-Chafey, M. I., &amp; Domenech Rodríguez, M. M. (2009). Cultural adaptation of treatments: A resource for considering culture in evidence-based practice. <i>Professional Psychology: Research and Practice</i>, 40(4), 361.</p> <p>Chu, W., Wippold, G., &amp; Becker, K. D. (2022). A systematic review of cultural competence trainings for mental health providers. <i>Professional Psychology: Research and Practice</i>, 53(4), 362.</p> <p>Cheng, A. W., Nakash, O., Cruz-Gonzalez, M., Fillbrunn, M. K., &amp; Alegría, M. (2023). The association between patient-provider racial/ethnic concordance, working alliance, and length of treatment in behavioral health settings. <i>Psychological Services</i>, 20(S1), 145.</p> <p>Huey Jr, S. J., Park, A. L., Galán, C. A., &amp; Wang, C. X. (2023). Culturally Responsive Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Ethnically Diverse Populations. <i>Annual Review of Clinical Psychology</i>, 19, 51-78.</p>

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

	<b>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</b>
1	Enhance communication and the interpersonal skills necessary for effective psychotherapeutic practice.	Communication and Interpersonal Skills
2	Demonstrate familiarity with the historical foundations of current theories and techniques of psychotherapy	History and Systems
3	Apply evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches by identifying and utilizing the fundamental tenets and therapeutic techniques of major psychotherapy theories in addressing cases with psychological concerns.	Intervention
4	Demonstrate an understanding of individual and cultural diversity, with a focus on how cultural factors influence the treatment process.	Individual and Cultural Diversity
5	Understand ethical considerations associated with psychotherapy and demonstrate ethical decision-making with cases showcasing psychological concerns	Ethical and Legal Standards

Major Course Requirements

**Method of Determining Final Course Grade**

<b>Course Grade Requirement</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Exam (15% x 3)	45%
Case conceptualization 1	15%
Case conceptualization 2	15%
In-class roleplay	15%
Attendance/Participation	10%

**Grading Criteria and Conversion:**

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 59% and below

A grade of less than “B” does not constitute satisfactory progress and jeopardizes one’s status in the program.

**Detailed Description of Major Assignments:**

<b>Assignment Title or Grade Requirement</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Exams</i>	There will be <b>3 noncumulative exams</b> in this course. Each exam is worth <b>15%</b> of your grade. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions and essay/short answer questions.
<i>Case conceptualization</i>	Students will prepare <b>2 written conceptualizations</b> (2-3 pages single spaced) of cases and <u>include treatment plans</u> that flow logically from those conceptualizations. Students will be provided with a case study and asked to write a conceptualization of that case from a designated theoretical orientation. The purpose of these assignments is to demonstrate one’s

	ability to think critically about clinical material and to do so within a coherent theoretical framework. Details on writing a case conceptualization and treatment plan will be provided.
<i>Role-plays</i>	Several practice roleplay activities will occur during class. Students are expected to come to class prepared to engage in role-play activities and provide feedback to other students. It is understood that students are in training, thus, no student is expected to be an expert in any therapeutic technique. However, students are expected to do their best. In some instances, the instructor will take the role of the identified patient, however, students may be asked to fill this role as well. The purpose of these role-play activities is to introduce students to different therapeutic skills, help students practice and get comfortable using skills, and allows students to learn from each other.
<i>Attendance/Participation</i>	Students are expected to regularly attend class and read all assigned readings. Discussion is critical in a course such as this one, and it will be limited if students do not read all assigned readings for the day. Students are expected to meaningfully contribute to class discussion, and the instructor will include prompts to help foster class discussion.

## Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

### Taskstream

Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One of your assignments may be required to be submitted as an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. If applicable, more information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

### Expectations

- Students in the course are expected to give their full attention. By full attention we mean that no one should be sleeping, talking, or working on materials for another class.
- Personal computers are allowed in the classroom BUT for course related use only (e.g., notetaking). Browsing unrelated websites, e-chatting, and visiting social network sites are considered inappropriate during class.
- Please SILENCE all cell phones during class time to respect the instructor as well as your fellow peers learning time.
- Students are strongly encouraged to participate openly and honestly in class discussion and activities.
- Students are responsible for completing all assignments for the class and submitting all work on the designated due dates.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss reading materials and assignments. Students are also expected to read the appropriate assigned readings BEFORE class to fully engage in the class discussion and learn from the readings.
- Disrespect to the instructor or others in the class will not be tolerated.

### Make-up Exams and Missed work:

There will be no make-up exams or permission to make up work. The only exception to this policy is severe medical emergency (e.g., hospitalization) or death in the family. If this is the case, you *must notify the instructor within 24 hours of the exam or missed work*. Also, you must provide the instructor with adequate documentation of your emergency, which will be verified. The format of the make-up exams (e.g., multiple choice, essay/short-answer questions, essay) or missed work is at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to take an exam or complete a missed work will result in a score of ZERO for the missed work or exam. Unless otherwise discussed with the instructor, any make-up exam or missed work must be made up within one week.

**Incompletes are rarely given.** Please see the university handbook for the university policy on the assignment of "incomplete" grades. NOTE: Students who have a failing average in a course cannot receive an incomplete grade.

**Copyright Statement:** Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further.

**Course Communication:** I will be communicating with you regarding grades and assignments. If you need to reach me, the best method is via email. Generally, I will reply to emails within 48 hours. If you do not hear back from me within 72 hours, feel free to send me another e-mail. Announcements will be posted to this course whenever necessary. If there is any other important information, I will send it to your PVAMU email address.

**Instructor Evaluations:** You will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation at the midpoint and toward the end of the semester.

**Syllabus Change Policy:** Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) criteria, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be announced.

**\* If you encounter problems in meeting any of these requirements, do not hesitate to contact me.**

The typical class structure will include:

- Readings
- Class discussions
- Class activities
- Role-plays
- Short videos
- Assignments

**Formatting Documents:** Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you are using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in Microsoft Word.

## Semester Calendar

Date	Topic & Lecture FH means First Half of class SH means Second Half of class	Readings for Discussion/ Items Due
January 17	<b>FH:</b> Introductions/ Syllabus	
	<b>SH:</b> Practice Basic Interviewing Skills	
January 24	<b>FH:</b> What is Psychotherapy & Clinical Science	L & O Ch. 6, 14
	<b>SH:</b> Evidence-Based v. Traditional Practice	L & O Ch. 22
January 31	<b>FH:</b> Cultural Factors in Psychotherapy	L & O Ch. 23; Whaley & Davis (2007)
	<b>SH:</b> Assessment, Case Conceptualization & Treatment Planning	L & O Ch. 8, 20
February 7	<b>Exam 1</b>	
February 14	<b>FH:</b> Classical Psychoanalytic/ Psychodynamic Therapies	P & N Ch. 2; Ch. 3
	<b>SH:</b> Systemic Therapies	P & N Ch. 12
February 21	<b>FH:</b> Interpersonal Therapy	P & N Ch. 7
	<b>SH:</b> Working with Clients, and Practice	
February 28	<b>FH:</b> Person-Centered/ Motivational Interviewing	P & N Ch. 5 <b>Conceptualization #1 Due (Interpersonal)</b>
	<b>SH:</b> Working with Clients, and Practice	
March 6	<b>FH:</b> Experiential Therapies	P & N Ch. 6 <i>Midterm Evaluations</i>
	<b>SH:</b> Working with Clients, and Practice	
March 13	<b>SPRING BREAK (No Classes in Session)</b>	
March 20	<b>Exam 2</b>	
March 27	<b>FH:</b> Behavioral Therapy/Exposure Therapy	P & N Ch. 8 & 9
	<b>SH:</b> Working with Clients, and Practice	
April 3	<b>FH:</b> Cognitive Therapy	P & N Ch. 10
	<b>SH:</b> Working with Clients and Practice	
April 10	<b>FH:</b> Third Wave Therapies	P & N Ch. 11 <b>Conceptualization #2 Due (Cognitive)</b>
	<b>SH:</b> Working with Clients, and Practice	
April 17	<b>FH:</b> Multicultural and Gender-Sensitive	P & N Ch. 13 & 14
	<b>FH:</b> Integrative Therapies	P & N Ch. 16
April 24	<b>Exam 3</b>	
May 1	<b>STUDY DAY (No Classes in Session)</b>	
May 3	<b>Final Exam: Resubmission (i.e., Exam or Case Conceptualization)</b>	

## 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](mailto: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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Rm. 305; Phone: 936-261-3627; Email: [aetesting@pvamu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Additional AI Technology Policy for Course:** Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the University's academic regulations. Use of AI tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course, but not encouraged. However, you should only use AI tools to help brainstorm assignments or projects or to revise existing work you have written. It is your responsibility to make all submitted work your own, maintain academic integrity, and avoid any type of plagiarism. Further, if you use AI technology, this must be directly cited in your assignment. Be aware that the accuracy or quality of AI-generated content may not meet the standards of this course, even if you only incorporate such content partially and after substantial paraphrasing, modification and/or editing. Also, keep in mind that AI-generated content may not provide appropriate or clear attribution to the author(s) of the original sources, while most written assignments in this course require you to find and incorporate highly relevant peer-reviewed scholarly publications following guidelines in the latest publication manual of the APA. Lastly, as your instructor, I reserve the right to use plagiarism-checking tools in evaluating your work, including those screening for AI-generated content, and impose consequences accordingly. If you use AI-generated material and do not cite it, this is cause for an academic honesty violation and possibly a 0 for the assignment.



*Sample AI citing:* ChatGPT (Date used). I used ChatGPT to help me to develop a paper topic related to ethics and ethnicity. It produced eight different topics. I chose and modified one for my Final Paper assignment. Website.

To be safe, you may also attach what was produced by the AI software to your assignment. For now, I believe the safest option is to not use AI technology, but if you do use it, properly indicate how you used the tool.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:deanofstudents@pvamu.edu) or phone: (936) 261-3550 or Office for Student Conduct via email: [studentconduct@pvamu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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.