

**POSC 2306 TEXAS GOVERNMENT- B-GLOBAL
SPRING 2024 (updated January 15)**

General Course Information: This course in Texas Government satisfies a core curriculum requirement.

| Information Item | Information |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Instructor: | Mr. Stephen Huss, M.A. |
| Section # and CRN: | Section P05, CRN 24098 Section P06, CRN 24099 |
| Office Location: | Woolfolk 204 I |
| Office Phone: | 936-261-2559 |
| Email Address: | sahuss@pvamu.edu (Do not message me via Canvas/eCourses, use this email to contact me) In your email communication, please notify me of your NAME, Course, and Course Section, so that I can quickly respond. |
| Office Hours: | TR 12:25pm-3:25pm or by appointment (Virtual- access via email) |
| Mode of Instruction: | Lecture |
| Course Location: | P05- HOBT 2B210 P06- HOBT 2B210 |
| Class Days & Times: | P05- TR 8:00 am – 9:20 am P06- TR 9:30 am – 10:50 am |
| Catalog Description: | Surveys the origin and development of the Texas Constitution; the structure and powers of Texas Government, including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; local government; areas of political participation and public policy in Texas. |
| Prerequisites: | N/A |
| Co-requisites: | N/A |
| Required Text(s): | Champagne, Anthony, Edward J. Harpham, Jason P. Casellas, and Jennifer Hayes Clark. 2023. <i>Governing Texas</i> , 6th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Ltd. Paperback Get the book WITH INQUIZITIVE! It's only \$45 packaged with eBook. ISBN: 978-1-324-03922-8. https://digital.wwnorton.com/govtexas6 INQUIZITIVE may also be purchased separately; also see link for trial access (for 3 week period). |
| Recommended Text(s): | N/A |

Course Objective: This course contributes to the Global Awareness and Cultural Knowledge goals of the [B-GLOBAL](#) Program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

| | Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: | Program Learning Outcome # Alignment | Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution. | SLO #1 | Critical Thinking |
| 2 | Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government. | SLO #1 | Critical Thinking |
| 3 | Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas. | SLO #1 | Critical Thinking |
| 4 | Differentiate the structure and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government. | SLO #3 | Critical Thinking |
| 5 | Assess the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas. | SLO #3 | Critical Thinking |
| 6 | Analyze the state and local election process in Texas. | SLO #3 | Critical Thinking |

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 7 | Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens of Texas. | SLO #3 | Social Responsibility |
| 8 | Write a research paper critiquing an important public policy issue in Texas. | SLO #2 | Communication |
| 9 | Write an essay on debates and divisions surrounding a key policy issue in Texas. | SLO #2 | Communication |
| 10 | Properly document a research paper with a reference list and in-text citations. | SLO #2 | Personal Responsibility |

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

| Course Grade Requirement | Value (in points) | Total (value of grade) |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Exam One | 100 pts | 16.67% |
| 2) Exam Two | 100 pts | 16.67% |
| 3) Exam Three (lowest of Exams 1-3 dropped) | 100 pts | 16.67% |
| 4) Exam Four (required, cannot be dropped) | 100 pts | 16.67% |
| 5) Inquizitive- accessed via Canvas/eCourses | 100 pts | 16.66% |
| 6) Class participation/group activities/discussion | 50 pts | 8.33% |
| 7) Article essay quiz- assignment | 50 pts | 8.33% |
| 8) Short paper- assignment w/ annotated | <u>100 pts</u> | <u>16.67%</u> |
| Total | 600 pts | 100% |

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 537-600 pts

B = 477-536 pts

C = 417-476 pts

D = 357-416 pts

F = 356 or less

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, including the final exam, 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, including the final exam, 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 (Consult the Calendar below for all due dates!)

NOTE: each and every week, there are at least one, but often more, assignments due, ALWAYS ON SUNDAYS. Assignments must be submitted by their due date. Consult the semester calendar below for reading schedule, and quizzes/assignments/exams due dates.

| Assignment Title | Description |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exams (Altogether = 50% of final course grade) | <p>There will be four (4) exams in the course, each worth 16.67% of the final grade. Exams must be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Students who cannot take an exam must do everything possible to notify the instructor before the scheduled examination. Students have until 5:00pm on the date of the exam to call or email the instructor to apply for a makeup exam. Failure to do so will result in the makeup exam being denied. Exams are NOT cumulative. Exams will contain 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. Exams are closed book, closed note.</p> <p>Make-up exams will be handled on a case-by-case basis for excused absences or documented emergencies and must be done within 3 days of the original exam unless circumstances require otherwise (see Student Handbook). Make-up exams may be a modified version of the original exam. Failure to take an exam will result in a failing grade in the course.</p> |

Consult the schedule below for exam dates.

Inquizitive chapter-by-chapter online questions (16.66% of final course grade)

Your text comes with an interactive feature called “Inquizitive.” You are required to answer all these questions. Unlike the actual exams, you can retake these questions as many times as you like. **These are accessed via the Inquizitive link in Canvas/eCourses and are due each Sunday.**

Class participation, group activities, and discussion (8.33% of final course grade)

Regular participation in group activities, and discussion is required and expected. These points are not automatic, and regular attendance and participation are necessary to earn the full points available.

Article Essay Quiz assignment (8.33% of final course grade)

Students must read the scholarly article(s) assigned by the instructor and then be prepared to answer essay-style questions on an essay-style quiz. The article and study guide questions based thereon will be provided through Canvas/eCourses. Essays must include parenthetical source citations and a works cited section at the end of the essay. **An essay with no parenthetical source citations and/or works cited section will receive a mark of 0. No second chances. This grade will NOT be dropped under any circumstances.**

Your completed essay quiz is submitted via the TurnItIn assignment link in Canvas/eCourses on Sunday, February 25.

Short Paper assignment (16.67% of final course grade)

Students must submit a research paper on how judges are selected in the Texas judiciary. Your paper must meet the following content, format and submission requirements:

CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Identify and explain the current TEXAS law regarding the selection of most judges in Texas.
2. Identify and explain at least two other types of judicial selection processes used in the U.S.
3. Choose whichever judicial selection method you think is best and give at least two criteria explaining how and why you made your choice. Possible criteria include: impartiality/independence, accountability and competence of judges.
4. Describe who may or may not benefit from the position you take in 3) above. Consider the impact on political parties, on justices and the individuals in the Texas court system. Also consider the impact in other areas, e.g., economic, political, social.
5. List at least two things you could do in order to engage the political process in Texas in pursuit of your position in 3) above, be specific.
6. Cite at least three (3) reliable, quality references within the body of the paper using the *Chicago Manual of Style's* parenthetical citation style. One of the citations MUST come from the class textbook (-10 points if this is not done). You must have at least three parenthetical citations in the body of the paper that correctly match the sources properly formatted in the Works Cited Page at the end of the paper.

You will be submitting an Annotated Bibliography early in the semester with correct formatting for the sources and a short description of source's credibility, and information used from the source for your paper.

A paper with no parenthetical source citations in its body will receive a grade of 0; no second chances.

A paper with no Works Cited Page at the end will receive a grade of 0; no second chances.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Typed, 2-3 pages (not counting Works Cited Page), 12-point font, double-spaced.
2. Your name, my name, POSC 2306, and the date.
3. A title is required, but a separate title page is not necessary.
4. A thesis or statement of purpose in the first paragraph, e.g., "This paper will..."
5. Use of the [*Chicago Manual of Style's*](#) parenthetical citation format. Students must be very careful and pay attention to details when they examine and cite internet sources. **A paper with no parenthetical source citations and/or no Works Cited Page at the end will receive a grade of 0; no second chances will be allowed.**
 - a. **You will be submitting an Annotated Bibliography early in the semester with correct formatting for the sources and a short description of source's credibility, and information used from the source for your paper.**
6. Use of footnotes or endnotes is prohibited.
7. Using encyclopedias, like Wikipedia, Ballotpedia, history.com, kids.law.com is prohibited (-10 points).
- 8. Use of word mixers like Spinbot is prohibited and will result in a grade of 0; no second chances will be allowed.**

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Your paper must be submitted via the Turn It In link found in Canvas/eCourses. You do NOT need a code; log into Canvas/eCourses and click on the link that says, "Short Paper" then click on the submission tab and follow the prompts to upload your paper.
2. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances, so plan accordingly.
3. A paper placed in my office, in my mailbox or emailed will not be accepted for grading.

Papers are graded according to the following four criteria: 1) content; 2) organization; 3) quality of writing; and 4) quality of research sources and reference citation formats.

Your annotated bibliography is submitted via the TurnItIn assignment in Canvas/eCourses on Sunday, March 24.

Your completed paper is submitted via the TurnItIn assignment (rubric available for student review) in Canvas/eCourses on Sunday, April 21.

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Political Science Program Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic crime and the Political Science Program has a strict, rigorous enforcement policy for students who commit plagiarism. In general, plagiarism is using another person's words, statistics, and/or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism, which is formally defined in the University Rules and Procedures section of this syllabus, can come in many forms, such as directly quoting a source without quotation marks, directly quoting a source without giving a reference citation, paraphrasing a source without giving a reference citation and so forth. It is incumbent on students to seek help from the instructor or other University resources to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in their work. If in doubt, CITE THE SOURCE! Any student caught committing ANY type of plagiarism in a Political Science course will receive one OR MORE of the following punishments, depending on the severity of the offense and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct:

1. Grade Penalty (an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course);
2. Letter of Reprimand
3. Probation
4. Suspension
5. Dismissal from Academic Program
6. Expulsion from the university.

Students must consult the University's Code of Conduct for other forms of academic dishonesty and the punishments

All students must sign a plagiarism/academic honesty contract (found/submitted on Canvas/eCourses) within the first 2 weeks of the semester, and complete the Academic Integrity Online Library Course (submit proof on Canvas/eCourses) within the first 4 weeks of the semester. Any students who do not complete these requirements will not be able to complete the exams or assignment submissions via Canvas/eCourses. Failure to complete them will count as one unexcused absence for each missing item.

Students found to have plagiarized an assignment will receive a 0 for the assignment (and fail the course). Extensive plagiarism and/or collusion with other students will be submitted to the university for review and I will ask that the student(s) involved be suspended or expelled. Please note my plagiarism guidelines on Canvas/eCourses.

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for my fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the University's academic regulations. You may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software. Using these tools without my permission puts your academic integrity at risk.

Electronic Communication Policy: Notes and other course materials may be posted on Canvas/eCourses, which is available at <http://ecourses.pvamu.edu>. You are expected to use this website as a resource for the class. The University also maintains an email account for you. I may send you notices so **I expect you to check your Prairie View A&M email account at least once a day.** If you have problems accessing your account, call (936) 261-2525. Not having access to your Panther Email is not an excuse for missing important information.

I rarely check Canvas/eCourses messages, so my PV email – sahuss@pvamu.edu – is by far the best way to communicate with me. In your email communication, please notify me of your NAME, Course, and Course Section, so that I can quickly respond.

Make-up Policy: You will only be allowed to make up an exam or assignment if you have a valid excuse. Valid excuses include *documented* illness, school or business trips, or family crises. Without proper documentation, there will be no makeup assignments. **If granted a make-up, you have a period of three (3) class days to schedule your make-up assignment or exam. After that point, the grade becomes a zero.** Please provide written documentation for why you need to make up an assignment from a university official, doctor, police officer, or coach. Student athletes must notify me **BEFORE** they attend an event to represent the school and **MUST** be proactive in getting their assignments completed. Make up exams may be an essay/short answer test or a modified version of the original exam. Any assigned extra credit cannot be made up.

Grade Groveling Policy: Students concerned about their grades should endeavor to attend all class sessions and complete all work to the best of their ability. Students **earn** high grades, based on demonstrating mastery of the subject matter and not based on what they want or need for their overall GPA. Therefore, no grade groveling will be entertained and no "do-overs" allowed.

Attendance Policy: For this class, students are allowed three unexcused absences **BEFORE** the mid-term, after which **the mid-term course grade will be reduced by a full letter.** Students are then allowed three additional unexcused absences **AFTER** the mid-term, after which **the final course grade will be reduced by a full letter.**

Late/Tardy Policy: Attending class on time is important. Class will start at the scheduled time and will end at the scheduled time. **If you come to class more than 9 minutes late (in the 10th minute or later), you will be asked to leave class and you will be counted absent.**

| Week | Semester Calendar Description |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week One: 1/16 – 1/21 | Course introduction; The Political Culture, People, and Economy of Texas |
| Chapter (s): | Course syllabus; Canvas/eCourses page; Chapter 1 |
| Assignment (s): | Print/download syllabus; Complete course contract-Due Sun. 1/28; Complete academic integrity online |

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| Week Two: 1/22 – 1/28 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | library course- Due Sun. 2/18 Inquizitive for Chapter 1 Due Sun. 1/28 |
| Week Three: 1/29 – 2/4 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | The Texas Constitution Chapter 2 Inquizitive for Chapter 2 Due Sun. 1/28 Course contract Due Sun. 1/28 |
| Week Four: 2/5 – 2/11 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | Texas in the Federal System Chapter 3 Inquizitive for Chapter 3 Due Sun. 2/4 |
| Week Five: 2/12 – 2/18 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | Review and Exam 1 Chapters 1, 2, 3 Review Exam 1 on eCourses Friday 2/9 - Sunday 2/11 |
| Week Six: 2/19 – 2/25 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | The Legislature Chapter 7 Inquizitive for Chapter 7 Due Sun. 2/18 Complete academic integrity online library course- Due Sun. 2/18 |
| Week Seven: 2/26 – 3/3 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | The Executive Branch Chapter 8 Inquizitive for Chapter 8 Due Sun. 2/25 Assignment- Article Essay Quiz Due Sun. 2/25 |
| Week Eight: 3/4 – 3/10 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | The Judiciary Chapter 9 Inquizitive for Chapter 9 Due Sun. 3/3 |
| Week of 3/11 – 3/17 | Review and Exam 2 Chapter 7, 8, 9 Review Exam 2 on eCourses for Friday, 3/8 – Sunday, 3/10 |
| Week Nine: 3/18 – 3/24 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS |
| Week Ten: 3/25 – 3/31 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | Public Finance Chapter 11 Inquizitive for Chapter 11 Due Sun. 3/24 Short Paper Annotated Bibliography (Step 1) Due Sun. 3/24 (Canvas/eCourses) |
| Week Eleven: 4/1 – 4/7 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | Public Policy Chapter 12 Inquizitive for Chapter 12 Due Sun. 3/31 |
| Week Twelve: 4/8 – 4/14 Chapter (s): Assignment (s): | Crime, Corrections, and Public Safety Review and Exam 3 Chapter 13 Chapters 11, 12, 13 Review Inquizitive for Chapter 13 Due Sun. 4/7 Exam 3 on eCourses for Friday, 4/5 – Sunday, 4/7 |
| Week Thirteen: 4/15 – 4/21 | Political Parties Chapter 4 Inquizitive for Chapter 4 Due Sun. 4/14 |
| | Elections |

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| Chapter (s): | Chapter 5 |
| Assignment (s): | Inquizitive for Chapter 5 Due Sun. 4/21 Assignment- Short Paper (Final) Due Sun. 4/21 (Canvas/eCourses) |
| Week Fourteen: 4/22 – 4/28 | Final Day to Withdraw from Course (“W”) Fri. 4/26 Local Government |
| Chapter (s): | Chapter 10 |
| Assignment (s): | Inquizitive for Chapter 10 Due Sun. 4/28 |
| Weeks Fifteen & Sixteen: 4/29 – 5/8 | Review and Exam 4 Mon. 4/29- STUDY DAY- NO CLASSES In Session |
| Chapter (s): | Chapters 4, 5, 10 Review |
| Assignment (s): | Exam 4 on eCourses for Friday, 5/3 – Sunday, 5/5 |

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. Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/>; Phone: 936-261-1500

Academic Advising Services

Academic Advising Services offers students a variety of services that contributes to student success and leads towards graduation. We assist students with understanding university policies and procedures that affect academic progress. We support the early alert program to help students get connected 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 with Academic Advising Services are available to all students. We are located across campus. Find your advisor's location by academic major at www.pvamu.edu/advising. 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, in virtual face-to-face sessions (<https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/sass/university-tutoring-center/>), and through online sessions (<https://www.pvamu.edu/pvplace/>). Other support services available for students include Supplemental Instruction, Study Break, Academic Success Workshops, and Algebra Study Jam. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 307; Phone: 936-261-1561; Email: pvtutoring@pvamu.edu; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/sass/university-tutoring-center/>

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; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/writing-center/>; Grammarly Registration: <https://www.grammarly.com/enterprise/signup>

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 unit 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; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/healthservices/student-counseling-services/>

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. 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; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/disabilityservices/>

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 college in the traditional manner. The Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS) supports student learning through online, hybrid, web-assist, and 2-way video course delivery. For more details and contact information, visit: <https://www.pvamu.edu/dlearning/distance-learning-2-2/students-2/>; Phone: 936-261-3283

Veteran Affairs

Veterans 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; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/sa/departments/veteranaffairs/>

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; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/studentengagement/>

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.

PV'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. PVAMU 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 inability 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 at 936-261-2144 or titleixteam@pvamu.edu. More information can be found at www.pvamu.edu/titleix, 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 High Sierra*
- Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi*
- High-speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- 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

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 <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> 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.

In your email communication, please notify me of your NAME, Course, and Course Section, so that I can quickly respond. Do not send me messages through Canvas/eCourses! The most effective way to communicate with me is through my PVAMU email account: sahuss@pvamu.edu