



**POSC 2306 TEXAS GOVERNMENT
Spring 2024**

Course Information: This course in Texas Government satisfies a core curriculum requirement
Instructor: Dr. Billy Monroe – Professor of Political Science
Section # and CRN: P10 – 24103
Office Location: Woolfolk 307
Office Phone: 936-261-3206
Email Address: bwmonroe@pvamu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:30am – 12:00pm
 Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm
Mode of Instruction: Face to Face
Course Location: Hobart Thomas 2B216
Class Days & Times: TR 2:00pm – 3:20pm
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: None.
Co-requisites: None
Required Texts: Champagne, Anthony, Edward J. Harpham and Jason P. Casellas. 2021. *Governing Texas*. 5th edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Ltd.
 ISBN: 978-0-393-53974-5 (ebook) or 978-0-393-53922-6 (paperback)

Selected Federalist Papers: These papers can be found online in several locations, including: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp

Recommended Texts: N/A

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 #5	Critical Thinking
2	Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.	SLO #3	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
7	Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens of Texas.	SLO #1	Social Responsibility
8	Write a research paper critiquing an important public policy issue in Texas.	SLO #2	Communication
9	Write an essay exam on debates and divisions surrounding a key policy issue in	SLO #2	Communication

	Texas.		
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	25%
2) Exam Two	100	25%
3) Exam Three	100	25%
4) Exam Four	100	30%
5) Writing Assignment # (research paper)	100	10%
6) Plagiarism Test Certification	100	10%
Total		100%

Grading criteria and conversion: A=90→100; B=80→89; C=70→79; D=60→69; F=below 60

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.

Assignment Title

1. Exams (Altogether = 80% of final course grade)

Description

There will be four (4) exams in the course. The first 3 exams are worth 25 percent each. The lowest score between exams 1-3 will be dropped. The final exam is worth 30 percent and you **cannot** drop the final exam score. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions. Exams are closed book, closed notes. Using notes, the book, and outside sources (internet or AI, such as ChatGPT, for example) on exams will be considered cheating and lead to an automatic 0 for the exam and the instructor reserves the right to assign a failing final grade to any student caught cheating. Exams should be taken as scheduled. Only students with a legitimate and documented reason for missing a scheduled exam will be allowed to take a makeup. 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. Make-up exams will be handled on a case-by-case basis for excused absences or documented emergencies and must be done within one week 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. Exams are **NOT** cumulative. **If the exams occur in person: Once an exam or quiz begins, you may not leave the room without notifying the professor. Students will not be allowed to write on exams and only the answer sheet provided by the professor will be graded. Writing on the exam will result in a warning on the first offense, a 5 point deduction for the second time, a 10 point deduction for the third offense and a 15 point deduction for a fourth offense.**

2. Writing Assignment #1 (10% 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 Author/Date 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.

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

A paper with no works cited section (a.k.a. list of reference list, a.k.a. bibliography) at the end of the body will receive a grade of 0.

A significant penalty (30 points) will be given if sources listed in the works cited cannot be found in the paper itself (or if sources listed in the paper cannot be found in the Works Cited).

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 Author Date parenthetical citation format. Students must be very careful and pay attention to details when they examine and cite internet sources. The university and political science program policies on plagiarism will be strictly enforced – unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit is plagiarism. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism (see university policy). The minimum penalty for plagiarism is an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course. Examples for the Chicago citation format can be found here:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html.

6. Use of footnotes or endnotes is prohibited.
7. Using encyclopedias, like Wikipedia, history.com, kids.law.com is prohibited (-10 points).
8. Use of word mixers like Spinbot or AI like ChatGPT are prohibited and will result in a grade of 0; no second chances will be allowed. The expectation is that this paper will be written in YOUR words – this is not an exercise in copy/paste and you should only use direct quotes when it is absolutely necessary (with correct citation).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Your paper must be submitted online in Canvas/E-Courses by March 26th at 2:00pm. Papers must be turned in no later than the beginning of class (2:00pm) and must be either Word or PDF format. Papers that cannot be opened will receive a 0.**
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.

3. Plagiarism Test Certification (10% of final course grade)

Students are required to register for, then take this [10-question Plagiarism Certification Test](#) as many times as necessary in order to obtain the Plagiarism Certificate. Submit the Plagiarism Certificate to receive full credit (100 points) for this assignment. Click here if the hyperlink above does not work:

<https://plagiarism.iu.edu/mainLogin.php?action=register&testLevel=UG>.

1. **Submit the Plagiarism Certificate in Word or PDF format on Canvas/E-Courses no later than the beginning of class (2:00pm) on January 25th. Assignments that cannot be opened will receive a 0. You are welcome to turn in the assignment any time before the deadline. Make sure your submission has both the Test ID and IP address for verification purposes.**
2. **Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances, so plan accordingly.**

Additional Instructor Policies

Class Rules and Other Key Information:

1. Email: You should put your name on all email correspondence. **I will NOT send exam, quiz, assignment and final grades via email.** You may receive your grades when exams, etc., are posted online, or you may drop by my office hours to receive your grades and other pertinent material. Requests for grade checks or academic progress reports will only be signed in my office so prepare accordingly.

2. In order for you to receive an excused absence, you **must** notify me **prior** to class; or you **must** have a documented emergency or school sponsored activity; otherwise, all absences and tardies will be considered unexcused. Oversleeping, exams in other classes, and things of that nature are not considered emergencies.

Please see the Student Handbook for more information on attendance policies and excused absences.

3. E-Courses will be utilized to post grades and for communication between me and the class. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class or any changes in the schedule.
4. Respectful class and student behavior is expected at all times – this includes, but is not limited to treating the professor and other classmates respectfully, asking questions when needed, practicing academic honesty, etc. Failure to do so will result in a 5-point deduction of your overall class average for each infraction.
5. Students are expected to do their own work. Collaboration is an important part of the learning process and the professor wants you to engage in class discussion or work together for things like study groups BUT all written assignments/exams are expected to be YOUR OWN WORK. Failure to respect this rule will be considered cheating and academic dishonesty – resulting in a minimum of taking a 0 for the assignment and/or an F for the course. When in doubt or if you have questions – feel free to see the professor and students are expected to impropriate behavior immediately.

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. 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.

Electronic Communication Policy: Course materials are 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 and Canvas/E-Courses at least once a day.** If you have problems accessing your account, call (936) 261-2525. Failure to access your Panther Email or Canvas/E-Courses is not an excuse for missing important information.

Make-up Policy: You will only be allowed to make up an exam if you have a valid excuse. Students should make every effort to inform the instructor in advance of missing an exam. Beyond documented valid excuses, there will be no makeup exams given. **If granted a make-up, you have a period of one week (from the date of the missed event) to complete a make-up exam. After that point, the grade becomes a zero.** Please provide written documentation for why you need to make-up an exam (Note from University Official, Doctor, Police Officer, Coach, and Parent). Student athletes must notify me **BEFORE** they attend an event to represent the school and **MUST** be proactive in getting their exams completed. Make up exams may be a modified version of the original exam. Make-ups will always be given during office hours. Failure to comply with these rules will mean a five-point reduction in your overall class average for each infraction.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected. There is almost always a high correlation between attendance and grades because lecture notes cover a great deal of material not found in the textbooks. When challenging a grade, it is the responsibility of the student to produce the requisite materials.

YOU CANNOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 9 MINUTES LATE! If you are 10 or more minutes late, **by the instructor's watch**, you cannot come to class that day. If you try to violate this rule, you will be expelled from class for that day.

Grade Groveling and Grade Appeal 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. Students have **one week** (from the date the assignment or exam grade was handed back in class or posted on E-courses) to challenge the grade and do so in writing/email. The instructor will regrade the **entire** assignment so the final grade can improve, be lowered, or remain the same.

Semester Calendar – Tuesday/Thursday Schedule

Week One: 1/16 – 1/18

Readings:

Assignment(s):

Course Introduction/Review of American Government/Introduction to State Government/Texas Political Culture

Course Syllabus, Federalist 51, 45-46, and Chapter 1

Course Introduction and Explanation of Syllabus (Tuesday)

Read Federalist 51 (Thursday)

Read Federalist 45-46 and Begin Chapter 1 (Thursday)

Week Two: 1/23 – 1/25

Readings:

Assignment(s):

The Texas Constitution and Texas in the Federal System

Federalist 45-46 and Chapters 1-3

Finish Chapter 1 and Begin Chapter 2 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 2 and Begin Chapter 3 (Thursday)

Plagiarism Test Certificate, due Thursday, January 25th online in E-Courses/Canvas by the beginning of class

Week Three: 1/30 - 2/1

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Federalism/Review/Exam 1

Federalist 45, 46, 51 and Chapters 1-3 (For Exam 1)

Finish Chapter 3 and Review for Exam 1 (Tuesday)

Exam One – Thursday, February 1st

Week Four: 2/6 – 2/8

Readings:

Assignment (s):

The Texas Legislature

Federalist 57 and Chapter 7

Read Federalist 57 (Tuesday)

Begin Chapter 7 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 7 (Thursday)

Week Five: 2/13 – 2/15

Readings:

Assignment (s):

The Texas Executive Branch

Federalist 70 and Chapter 8

Read Federalist 70 (Tuesday)

Begin Chapter 8 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 8 (Thursday)

Week Six: 2/20 – 2/22

Readings:

Assignment (s):

The Texas Judiciary

Federalist 78 and Chapter 9

Read Federalist 78 (Tuesday)

Begin Chapter 9 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 9 (Thursday)

Week Seven: 2/27 – 2/29

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Civil Rights/Liberties and Crime/Corrections Policy

U.S. Bill of Rights and Chapter 13

Read Bill of Rights and Lecture Notes (Tuesday)

Begin Chapter 13 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 13 (Thursday)

Week Eight: 3/5 - 3/7

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Review and Exam Two (the mid-term exam)

Chapters 7-9 and Federalist Papers 57/70/78 (for Exam 2)

Review for Exam 2 (Tuesday)

Exam Two – Thursday, March 7th.

Week Nine: 3/11 – 3/15

Week Ten: 3/19 – 3/21

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Spring Break

Campaigns and Elections

Chapter 5

Begin Chapter 5 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 5 (Thursday)

Week Eleven: 3/26– 3/28

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Local Government

Chapter 10

Writing Assignment #1: Research Paper due Tuesday, March 26th online in E-Courses/Canvas by the beginning of class.

Read Chapter 10 (Tuesday)

No class – Thursday, March 30th

Week Twelve: 4/2– 4/4

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Review and Exam Three

U.S. Bill of Rights and Chapters 5, 10, 13

Review For Exam 3 (Tuesday)

Exam Three – Thursday, April 4th.

Week Thirteen: 4/9 – 4/11

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Political Parties

Chapter 4

Begin Chapter 4 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 4 (Thursday)

Week Fourteen: 4/16 – 4/18

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Interest Groups

Federalist 10 and Chapter 6

Read Federalist 10 (Tuesday)

Begin Chapter 6 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapter 6 (Thursday)

Week Fifteen: 4/23 – 4/25

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Public Policy

Chapters 12, 14 and Review for Final Exam

Begin Chapters 12 and 14 (Tuesday)

Finish Chapters 12 and 14 (Thursday)

Review for Final Exam (Thursday)

Week Sixteen: 4/30 – 5/8

Final Exams

Exam Four (Chapters 4,6,12,14 and Federalist 10) – Date TBA

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. 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.

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 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 based on 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 using 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.