

## **POSC 3355 African Politics**

**Spring 2024**

<b>Course Information</b>	This course is a major elective for the degree in Political Science.
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Walle Engedayehu
<b>Section # and CRN:</b>	P01 25091
<b>Office Location:</b>	E.E. O'Banion Building, Room 230AB
<b>Office Phone:</b>	936-261-3201
<b>Email Address:</b>	waengedayehu@pvamu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	8 – 10 a.m. , MWF , 3-4 p.m.; and by appointment
<b>Mode of Instruction:</b>	Lecture
<b>Course Location:</b>	W R Banks Bldg. 208
<b>Class Days &amp; Times:</b>	12:30 pm - 1:50 pm TR
<b>Catalog Description:</b>	Explores the political history and development of African states.
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	N/A
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	N/A
<b>Required Text(s):</b>	<b>Thompson, Alex (2016). <i>An Introduction to African Politics</i> (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York: Routledge, Taylor &amp; Francis Group. ISBN: 113878284X ISBN13: 9781138782846</b>
<b>Recommended Text(s):</b>	Rodney, Walter (1972). <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i> . London: Boge-L' Overture Publications.

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

	<b>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Student Learning Outcome # Alignment</b>	<b>Core Curriculum Objective Alignment</b>
<b>1</b>	Explain the major historical events that led to the colonization of Africa;	SLO #1	Critical Thinking
<b>2</b>	Identify the sovereign and independent states of Africa on the map;	SLO #1	Critical Thinking
<b>3</b>	Show knowledge of the trends in Africa nationalist aspirations and the consequential struggle for independence;	SLO #1	Critical Thinking
<b>4</b>	Demonstrate familiarity with the social, political and economic transformation of African states from the colonial period to the post-colonial era;	SLO #3	Critical Thinking
<b>5</b>	Comprehend the ethnic and class dimensions of African political practices;	SLO #3	Critical Thinking

6	Understand the evolution of development ideologies in Africa and be familiar with the types of state formations;	SLO #3	Critical Thinking
7	Show the nature and scope of interstate relations among African states, both at the regional and continental levels, while identifying sources of conflicts within and outside the states and explaining the common practices of conflict resolutions; and	SLO #3	Social Responsibility
8	Write a research paper critiquing an important public policy issue in the context of Africa;	SLO #2	Communication
9	Review 2 scholarly written articles identifying their strengths and weaknesses based on a set of rubrics that measures effectiveness and weakness; and	SLO #2	Communication
10	Produce and properly document an advanced level research paper with a reference list and in-text citations.	SLO #2	Personal Responsibility

## Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

- Exams — written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material
- Exercises — written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material
- Projects — research projects designed to measure ability to write logically-coherent paper based on acceptable research practices
- Class Participation — daily attendance and participation in class discussions

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to change the evaluation criteria based on the pace, time and amount of coverage of lecture materials associated with the course.

### Method of Determining Final Course Grade:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Map Test	50	50
First Exam	100	100
Quizzes (2)	50	100
Mid Term Exam	100	100
Article Review	50	50
Term Paper and presentation	100	100
Final Exam	100	<u>100</u>
	Total:	<b>600</b>

### Grade Determination:

**A = 600 - 550pts**

**B = 549 - 500pts**

**C = 499 - 450pts**

**D = 449 - 400pts**

**F = 399 pts. or below**

**Grading conversion in percentage: 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.

## Course Procedures

### Submission of Assignments:

All assignments must be submitted only on the date indicated in the course outline

### 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 either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or the plain text format.

### Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). You are required to bring a blue book for all your exams. During exams, all cell phones are to be turned off.

## 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 or artificially generated program'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, taking another student's work, 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 or for the course) in addition to cancellation of any extra credit points
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 punishments.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** Notes and other course materials are posted on 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. For security purposes, **I will not respond to emails sent to me from addresses that do not come from your official PVAMU email address. 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.

**Make-up Policy:** You will only be allowed to make up an exam or assignment if you have a valid excuse—follow the Absence Verification Process described on p. 11 below. **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.** 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**. Students can monitor their attendance records through the Attendance link in eCourses. Please do so.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> minute or later), you will be asked to leave class and you will be counted absent.

<b>16 Week Semester Calendar Spring 2024</b>	
<b>Week One: 1/16 – 1/21</b>	<b>Introduction to African Politics and Society: Debunking the Myths</b>
Readings:	Part 1: Introductions and historical inheritance, pp. 1-37
Assignment(s):	Please study the map of Africa Video presentations
<b>Week Two: 1/22 – 1/28</b>	<b>Theoretical Perspectives and Dominant Themes</b>
	Lecture notes drawn from multiple sources)
Readings:	Part 2, pp. 39-68
Assignment(s):	<b>Map Quiz – January 25 (Thursday)</b> Read Part 2, section 3 and be ready to discuss several approaches to the study of African politics
<b>Week Three: 1/29 – 2/4</b>	<b>History: Africa's Pre-Colonial and colonial Inheritance</b>
Readings:	Part 2, pp. 69-186
Assignment (s):	Discuss the politics and economics of African pre-colonial independence era before 1884 (class lecture)  <b>First Test – February 1 (Thursday)</b>
<b>Week Four: 2/5 – 2/11</b>	<b>The Historical Impact of Colonialism and Imperialism</b>
Readings:	Lecture notes drawn from multiple sources
Assignment (s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and discuss the formal partitioning of Africa by European colonial powers(1884-1951)</li> <li>• Submit a Research Topic</li> <li>• Quiz 2</li> </ul>
<b>Week Five: 2/12 – 2/18</b>	<b>The Struggle for Independence: The Dynamics of Nationalism and the Process of Decolonization</b>
Readings:	Lecture notes drawn from multiple sources
Assignment (s):	Read and discuss trends of African nationalism and the domestic and external influences on the rise of nationalist movements
<b>Week Six: 2/19 – 2/25</b>	<b>Politics in Independent Africa: Sovereignty and Authority, Neocolonialism, and Problems of Governance</b>
Readings:	Part 3, pp. 187-242
Assignment (s):	Read and discuss ideology (s) and the politics of protest and conflict
<b>Week Seven: 2/26 – 3/3</b>	<b>Continuity and Change: State and Civil Society, Military Governance, and Democratic Experiments</b>
Topic Description	List all the countries that follow a Western-style form of government (In-Class Presentation)
Assignment (s):	<b>Discussion of the Research Project</b>

<b>Week Eight: 3/4 –3/10</b>	<b>Submit Preliminary Research Outline</b>
Readings:	Part 4, pp. 243-314
Assignment (s):	<b>Mid-Term - March 7 (Thursday)</b>
<b>Week Nine: 3/11 – 3/17</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
Readings:	Readings to be assigned
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Ten: 3/18 – 3/24</b>	<b>Africa and the World economy</b>
Readings:	Guest speakers
Assignment (s):	<b>Submission of Article Review – March 21 (Thursday)</b>
<b>Week Eleven: 3/25 – 3/31</b>	<b>Pan-Africanism: Regional Integration/Interstate Relations</b> <b>March 29 2024 - Good Friday (No Classes)*Subject to approval by The Texas A&amp;M University System Board of Regents and may change.</b>
Readings:	Read and discuss the founding of the OAU and the subsequent
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Twelve: 4/1 –4/7</b>	<b>Africa's International Relations</b>
Readings:	(Lecture notes drawn from multiple sources)
Assignment (s):	Prepare for class presentation of research paper <b>Submission of Term paper – April 4 (Thursday)</b>
<b>Week Thirteen: 4/8 – 4/14</b>	<b>Research presentations</b>
Readings:	
Assignment (s):	
<b>Week Fourteen: 4/15 - 4/21</b>	<b>Research presentations continued</b>
Readings:	
Assignment (s):	
<b>Weeks Fifteen AND Sixteen 4/22 – 4/28</b>	<b>Research Presentations continued</b>
	Apr 29, 2024 (Monday) Study Day(No Classes in Session)
<b>Apr 30 - May 08</b>	<b>Final Exam Week</b> <b>Final – May 7 (Tuesday)</b>

### *Guidelines for the Term Paper*

*Students are required to submit a 5-8-page double-spaced, typewritten research paper on an issue-oriented topic from a case study to be assigned in class. The case study involves a county in Africa on which the student develops expertise throughout the semester by studying that country's current development challenges domestically or the crises that adversely impact the country's relations with other states, both within the continent and globally. The term paper will be completed in four phases:*

*Phase One: Choose an issue/problem challenging your case country from your preliminary*

readings and formulate a topic for approval by Friday, February 8.

*Phase Two: Submission of a thesis statement introducing the research problem or the questions to be addressed in the paper, along with an outline that contains the basic elements of the research paper such as:*

*1. Introduction-- or purpose of the paper. This opening part suggests acquainting the reader with the problem and stating the thesis.*

*II Body of the Paper:*

*Heading 1: History of the Problem. You may include past attempts at solutions.*

*Heading 2: Extent of the Problem. Who is affected? What impact has it had?*

*Heading 3: Effects of the Problem.*

*Heading 4: Possible Future Solutions.*

*Conclusion: Sums up the points made in the term paper and gives a strong answer to the thesis.*

*Phase Three: a one-page reference or bibliography checklist including books, academic journal articles, authoritative government documents, authoritative internet sources, etc.) and conform to the Chicago Manual of Style format requirements (be sure to click on the Author-Date tab when you open the link!)*

*[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guideæ.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guideæ.html)*

*Phase Four: the final paper, with correct parenthetical citations (in-text citations) within the body of the paper and a complete and correct works cited page.*

*A paper with no parenthetical source citations and/or no works cited section at the end of the paper will receive a mark of 0. There will be no second chances. Each Phase must be submitted in class as the semester progresses.*

*Phase Four---Final Paper--- must be submitted in hard copy in class.*

*All papers must have a title. All written assignments must be typed, in 12-point font, and double-spaced.*

*No late assignments will be taken under any circumstances.*

*Assignments that are sent via email, slipped under my office door, or stuck in my campus mailbox will not be accepted for grading.*

*Your report should be about 5-8 pages of text (not counting the works cited section).*

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

## **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: [pv tutoring@pvamu.edu](mailto:pv tutoring@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. 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.

### **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](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 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](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 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](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.