



SYLLABUS SOWK 6303–Z01 Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis

Spring 2024

Instructor: Dr. Trevor Stephen DSW

Section # and CRN: TBA

Office Location: Online

Office Phone: TBA

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Office Hours: Appointment or 5-7 PM Wednesdays, Fridays 8 AM-10 AM, 3 PM-5 PM

Mode of Instruction: Online

Course Location: Online

Zoom Class Days & Times: Wednesday 6:00 PM CST

Course Catalog Description: This course covers the incidence, etiology, and assessment of health and mental health issues with children, adolescents, adults, and families using a bio-psycho-social-spiritual and cultural approach. Students will master the essential knowledge, understanding, and application of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V) and International Classification of Diseases (ICD) behavioral health classification systems for differential assessment and diagnosis of mental disorders, mental illness, and related medical issues in clinical social work practice. Psychopharmacology is also covered.

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Required Text(s): Gray, S. & Zide, M. (2017). Psychopathology: A Competency-based Assessment Model for Social Workers (4TH ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage.

Pomeroy, Elizabeth Cheney, 1955-. (2003). The clinical assessment workbook: balancing strengths and differential diagnosis. Pacific Grove, CA : Brooks/Cole: Cengage

Recommended Text(s):

- American Psychiatric Association (APA). (2013). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th). Washington, DC: Author.
- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2020, 7th Ed.).

Student Learning Outcomes:

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of biological, psychosocial, and cultural theories on the etiology of mental health and mental illness.		
2	Demonstrate the ability to apply methods of empirically based assessment tools and techniques, including those developed through classificatory schemes, standardized measures, and qualitative typologies.		
3	Demonstrate advanced clinical knowledge of the relationship between assessment and intervention as it relates to the strengths, capacities, and resources of individuals and families.		
4	Demonstrate the ability to adapt assessment models to reflect an understanding of persons from diverse backgrounds, including (but not limited to) race, ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, age, and national origin.		
5	Critically evaluate and analyze different theoretical and assessment models as to their efficacy in given situations. This includes a) the adequacy of the research and knowledge base; b) the range of applicability; c) the value and ethical issues, including the student's own value system; and d) the policy implications involved in the assessment and delivery of services.		
6	Demonstrate an understanding of the limitations in using classification schemes in understanding human behavior and the danger of mislabeling people, particularly those from at-risk populations. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of social work values and the ethical decision-making processes as they relate to ethical dilemmas in clinical assessment and practice.		

Table 2 Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value	Total
<p>Psychosocial Assessment Paper: One Psychosocial Assessment Paper on following Books: • <i>Willow Weep for Me</i> (Daquah, Meri Nana-Ama, 1998). Each student will complete a 6-8-page clinical assessment of the main character in one of the above books, <u>using the outline provided in “The Clinical Assessment Workbook.”</u> Include a description/assessment of the family</p>	15 pts.	15%

<p>situation. In the final section of the paper, write a summary of how this individual and family affected you personally and in your role as a social worker (i.e. what were your initial reactions to this person’s disorder; what were your reactions to the family and/or friends’ ability to handle this illness; what were the most difficult parts of the story for you to deal with emotionally; what kinds of questions did it create for you; how did you feel about this person and those impacting him/her at the conclusion of the story; as a social worker, did you feel there were other things that could’ve been done to assist this person and their family or friends).</p>		
<p>Mid-Term Exam Mid-term exam questions will cover selected chapters your required textbook. The format of the tests will be a multiple choice and/or a True/False. Your instructor will discuss more details in class.</p>	15 pts.	15%
<p>Quizzes</p>	10 pts.	10%
<p>Discussions Questions</p>	10 pts.	10%

<p>Group Presentation Students will be assigned to small groups to prepare a group presentation on one of the chapter disorders. Presentations will be uploaded to Canvas by the due date given. The presentation should consider what information on this type is most useful for social workers engaged with this population to know also should include an overview of the disorder and a critical look at the impact on communities of color and minority communities. The Professor would serve as a resource person for each group. The length of the presentation is 5--7 mins. The presentation should include an overview of the disorder and a critical look (can be a guided discussion) at the impact on communities of color and minority communities. Be creative and interactive in your presentation.</p> <p>Integration of References: References should be integrated into the presentation; a reference list should be provided at the end of the presentation.</p>	10 pts.	10%
<p>Developmental Case Analyses A critical piece of this class is practicing your new assessment skills throughout the semester. Prepared vignettes from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015) will allow you to immediately apply and practice your understanding of the <i>DSM 5</i> readings for that week. Ten case assessments will be assigned throughout the course (see syllabus). These will be graded on the accuracy and thoroughness of not only your diagnostic assessments but also the short answers provided for each case vignette. This is an extremely valuable and important way for you to explain the reasoning for your answers. Complete the short answers thoroughly! These assignments are carefully evaluated as a way of making sure everyone understands the material. The cases must be turned in on time at the beginning of class to be given points. Late homework assignments will not be accepted without prior approval.</p>	20 pts.	10%

<p>Final Exam Final Exam questions will cover selected chapters in your required textbook. The format of the tests will be a multiple choice and/or a True/False. Your instructor will discuss more details in class.</p>	20 pts.	20%

PAPER Requirements

1. All paper **MUST** be typed using APA style - double-spaced, one-inch margin & 12 font size, Times New Roman.
2. Please use headers.
3. Proofread your paper before processing it through Grammarly Premium and include the Grammarly Premium score with your paper submission.
4. A minimum of 15 references **MUST** be included at the end of the papers.
5. Final papers must be proofread and processed through Grammarly-Premium, and a printout of the Grammarly-Premium score must be included at the bottom of the cover page.

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

- 90-100A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- Below 60 F

Criteria for Grading	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Psychosocial Assessment Paper		15%
Midterm Exam		15%
Group Presentation		10%
Developmental Case Analyses vignette		20%
Discussion questions		10%
Quizzes		10%
Final Exam		20%
Total		100%

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Taskstream

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

Week/Dates	Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments
<p>Week 1</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Syllabus Review, and An Introduction to the Competency-Based Assessment Model</p> <p>READINGS: Chapter 1 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete all the Discussion Questions on Chapter 1 of Gray & Zide (2017). 2. Identify a Clinical Assessment research article or a dissertation related to mental illness, disorders, and interventions. 3. Be able to discuss on next class how the findings from a specific research article/dissertation will help you in the development of the Psychosocial Assessment Paper.
<p>Week 2</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Neurodevelopmental Disorders</p> <p>READINGS: Chapter 2 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #1 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015).
<p>Week 3</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders</p> <p>READINGS: Chapter 3 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #2 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015).

<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Bipolar and Related Disorders</p> <p>READINGS: Chapters 4 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #3 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015). 3. Complete Quiz on chapters 1-4
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<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Depressive Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 5 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #4 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015). 3. Submit the Draft for the Psychosocial Assessment Paper
<p>Week 6</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Anxiety Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 6 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #5 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015). 3. Review for the Midterm Exam
<p>Week 7</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 7 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #6 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015). 3. MIDTERM EXAM.

<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 8 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #7 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015).
<p>Week 9</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Dissociative Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 9 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #7 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015). 3. Submit the Psychosocial Assessment Paper
<p>Week 10</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 10 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #9 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015). 3. Complete quiz Chapters 5-9
<p>Week 11</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Feeding and Eating Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 11 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please submit diagnostic assessments on a case vignette #10 from your <i>Clinical Assessment Workbook</i> (Pomeroy, 2015). 3. Submit PowerPoint Presentation (group)

<p>Week 12</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Elimination Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 12 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please complete discussion questions on Chapter 12 of Gray & Zide (2017). 3. Submit PowerPoint Presentation (group)
<p>Week 13</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 13 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please complete the discussion questions on Chapter 13 of Gray & Zide (2017). 3. Submit PowerPoint Presentation (group)
<p>Week 14</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Substance-related and Addictive Disorders</p>

	<p>Readings: Chapters 14 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please complete discussion questions on Chapter 14 of Gray & Zide (2017). 3. Submit PowerPoint Presentation (group) 4. Review for the Final Exam
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<p>Week 15</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: Neurocognitive Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 15 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View lecture videos 2. Please complete discussion questions on Chapter 15 of Gray & Zide (2017). 3. Submit PowerPoint Presentation (group) 4. Complete the Final Exam
<p>Week 16</p>	<p>Lecture Topics: The Personality Disorders</p> <p>Readings: Chapters 16 of Gray & Zide (2017).</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. View lecture videos 5. Course Wrap-up

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

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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>

Academic Early Alert

Academic Early Alert is a proactive system of communication and collaboration between faculty, academic advisors, and PVAMU students that is designed to support student success by promptly identifying issues and allowing for intervention. Academic Early Alerts help students by providing a central location to schedule advising appointments, view advisor contact information, and request assistance. Students who recognize that they have a problem that is negatively affecting their academic performance or ability to continue school may self-refer an Academic Early Alert. To do so, students will log in to PV Place and click on Academic Early Alert on the left sidebar. Phone: 936-261-5902; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/early-alert/>

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

Testing Services serves to create opportunities by offering a suite of exams that aid in the students' academic and professional success. Currently, we administer entrance (HESI A2), college readiness (TSI assessment), Prior Learning (CLEP, DSST), and proctored exams. Location: Wilhelmina Delco, 3rd Floor, Rm. 305; Phone: 936-261-3627; Email: aetesting@pvamu.edu; Website: www.pvamu.edu/testing

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/>

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office 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 Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Anderson Hall, 2nd floor; Phone: 936-261-3570; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/careerservices/>

University Rules and Procedures Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is defined as any form of cheating or dishonesty that has the effect or intent of

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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.

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,

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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.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services or the Dean of Students' Office for additional information and to request accommodations.

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.

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
- 12
- 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

* Smartphones, Google Chrome books, and Android tablets may not be supported. iPads are the only tablets supported.

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 [NOTE: Delete this section when the COVID-19 pandemic is over]

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, PVAMU has adopted policies and practices to limit virus transmission.

- **Self-monitoring** - Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.
- **Face Coverings** - Face coverings (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) are recommended in classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource, and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is challenging to maintain reliably.
- **Physical Distancing** - Physical distancing should be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities where possible.
- **Personal Illness and Quarantine** - Students required to quarantine are to participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities. Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence. To receive an excused absence, students must provide appropriate documentation to the Office for Student Conduct, studentconduct@pvamu.edu.