# AGHR 1303-Y01: Land Grant Systems and Food Security
## Fall 2020

### General Course Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Item</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Instructor:</strong></td>
<td>Wash A. Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section # and CRN:</strong></td>
<td>Y01 / 13535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Location:</strong></td>
<td>306 Agriculture and Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Phone:</strong></td>
<td>936-261-2538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email Address:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:wajones@pvamu.edu">wajones@pvamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Hours:</strong></td>
<td>MW 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; TR 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of Instruction:</strong></td>
<td>Hybrid/Blended</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Course Location:</strong></td>
<td>111 AGBU and Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Days &amp; Times:</strong></td>
<td>TR 8:35 – 9:55 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Catalog Description:** 3 credit hours. This course is designed to educate students about the land grant mission, created by the Morrill Act passed by Congress in 1862 and 1890. Areas related to science technology in Global Food Security and Sustainable Food Programs will be emphasized. Students will participate in peer workshops to demonstrate critical thinking skills gained through programs.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Co-requisites:** None

**Required Text(s):**
- *Global Food Security: Challenges for the Food and Agricultural System*
  - ISBN: 978-92-64-19536-3 Provided as PDF
- Designated Assigned Handouts and Readings

**Recommended Text(s):** As assigned

### Student Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcome Alignment</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving and research in agriculture related disciplines</td>
<td>1 Critical Thinking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Participate in group and individual presentations, laboratory assignments and effective writings</td>
<td>3 Communication</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Identify and explain trends for future outcomes regarding global food security issues based on statistical models</td>
<td>1 Empirical and Quantitative</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Demonstrate ability to apply social, economic, political, and environmental principles to living in a global society</td>
<td>4 Social Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively as part of a problem-solving team</td>
<td>1 Teamwork</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Attendance / Class Participation</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Book Chapter Assignments</td>
<td>1 @ 50 points</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Class Group Presentation</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) In-class Quizzes</td>
<td>3 @10 points each</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) Exam #1, #2</td>
<td>2 @ 50 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>6) Final Exam</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Extra Credit Opportunities</td>
<td>(Maximum of 5 points)</td>
<td>Maximum 5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>405</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Criteria and Conversion:
A = 365 – 405 pts  
B = 324 – 364 pts  
C = 284 – 323 pts  
D = 243 – 283 pts  
F = 242 pts or below

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Title or Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>Students will be tested to determine their level of mastery of materials presented or discussed in class or in the readings. Addresses Learning Outcomes #1, #3 and #4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>Students will be required to examine a designated problem related to global food security and to present proposed solutions. Addresses Learning Outcomes #1 - #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Chapter Assignments</td>
<td>Students will be required to complete a specific book chapter assignment which discusses issues related to global food security. Specific guidelines and due dates will be given in class. Addresses Learning Outcomes #1, #3 and #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Quizzes</td>
<td>Three <em>unannounced</em> quizzes will be given during the semester at the <em>beginning</em> of designated class sessions. Students <strong>MUST</strong> be on time to participate in the quizzes, which will cover the assigned readings in the class. <strong>Quizzes cannot be made up if they are missed.</strong> Addresses Learning Outcome #1</td>
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</table>

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 by your department, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

**Communication with the Professor:** I *strongly encourage* students to communicate openly with the professor during the semester, both in and outside of class. Students may take advantage of my published office hours to visit or set up a zoom meeting; however, I also have an open-door policy wherein students may visit me if I am in the office outside of published office hours. If you call me by phone, please leave a voice message and phone number so that I may return your phone call. I usually will return phone calls the same day if the call is received by 2:00 pm on a given day. If you want to send an email, it must be sent from your University email address, and you
must use the regular email [do not send me email through E-courses]. I typically will respond to email within 24 hours. If you don’t receive a response within 24 hours, please follow up with me because I may not have received the email. All written correspondence from students is expected to be professional and to avoid using “text message abbreviations.”

**Extra Credit Opportunities** Extra credit opportunities will be given only when ALL students have the same opportunity to take advantage of them. Therefore, no extra credit opportunities will be granted for any student at the end of the semester after all graded assignments have been completed. All students will be granted opportunities to receive extra credit during the semester. The instructor will announce when these opportunities are available. These may be in the form of attending academic lectures, participation in special projects or related activities. Taking advantage of these opportunities is optional but highly encouraged, and not taking advantage of these opportunities will not count against a student’s grade in the class. Points for extra credit opportunities will be added to the student’s FINAL grade, so extra credit points could make a difference to a student’s final grade. Extra credit will be limited to a maximum total of five points.

**Assignments:** Students are expected to submit all assignments by the established due date. Late submissions will be discounted 5% for each calendar day delinquent. Assignments may not be accepted if they are more than seven calendar days late. As current or future professionals and researchers, you are expected to present written information professionally and accurately. Therefore, your quality of writing (grammar, syntax, spelling, etc.) will be judged on all written assignments. Errors in your written communication will be counted against you. In submitting assignments, DO NOT include a cover sheet. Place your name (or student number) as directed in the top left corner of your paper. All multiple-page assignments MUST be stapled when submitted. Papers submitted without staples will have points deducted from the grade.

**Classroom Attire and Demeanor:** Students are required to dress appropriately for class each day. Provocative, inappropriate or offensive attire will not be allowed in the classroom. Males are expected to remove all headwear when in the classroom. Headphones are not allowed. All cell phones must be turned off or on silent in the classroom. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or related equipment when class is in session unless announced by the professor. Students may be penalized points off of their grades or dismissed from class for using unauthorized equipment in class. Behavior that disrupts the academic environment may be grounds for dismissal from the class. If you are participating in the class through Zoom, you are required to have your video turned ON and your audio should be MUTED unless you are asking a question, responding to a question or contributing to the class discussion.

**Semester Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **Week One:** | T: Class Introduction / Overview of Land Grant Systems and Institutions  
[Attendance: All students participate through Zoom]  
R: Legislative Policies Affecting the Agricultural industry  
[Attendance: Adams through Freeland F2F; All others through Zoom]  
Assignment (s): |
| **Aug 25-27** | Topic Description |
| Readings: Prepared Handouts | |
| **Week Two:** | T: Millennium Development Goals  
[Attendance: Fretty through Perry F2F; All others through Zoom]  
R: Millennium Development Goals  
[Attendance: Reed through Woods F2F; All others through Zoom]  
Assignment (s): NA |
| **Sep 1-3** | Topic Description |
| Readings: Millennium Development Goals 2015 Report | |
| **Week Three:** | |

3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic Description</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment (s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One</td>
<td>Sep 8 – 10</td>
<td>T: Issues in Global Food Security/USDA: The People’s Department</td>
<td>R: Exam #1 [September 10, 2020]</td>
<td>[Attendance: ALL STUDENTS take exam online through Canvas]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Four</td>
<td>Sep 15 – 17</td>
<td>T: Global Issues in Food Security</td>
<td>R: Food Waste/Food Loss Impact on Food Security</td>
<td>[Attendance: Fretty through Perry F2F; All others through Zoom]</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
<td>Sep 22 - 24</td>
<td>T: Research, Data Assessment, Trends and Forecasts</td>
<td>R: Research, Data Assessment, Trends and Forecasts</td>
<td>[Attendance: Adams through Freeland F2F; All others through Zoom]</td>
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<td>September 24: Book Chapter Assignment due on TaskStream</td>
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<td>[Attendance: Adams through Freeland F2F; All others through Zoom]</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
<td>Sep 29 – Oct 1</td>
<td>T: Impact of Water on Food Security</td>
<td>R: The Impact of NIFA Projects on Global Food Security</td>
<td>[Attendance: Reed through Woods F2F; All others through Zoom]</td>
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<td>Review for Exam #2</td>
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<td>[Attendance: Reed through Woods F2F; All others through Zoom]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Seven</td>
<td>Oct 6 – Oct 8</td>
<td>T: Guest Speaker or In-class Activity</td>
<td>R: Exam #2</td>
<td>[Attendance: ALL STUDENTS: Take exam online through Canvas]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Eight</td>
<td>Oct 13 – Oct 15</td>
<td>T: Populations, Cultures, Diets of World Regions</td>
<td>R: Invitational LDE Extra Credit Opportunity</td>
<td>[Attendance: No Class Meeting; College-wide Engagement Day]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Nine</td>
<td>Oct 20 – Oct 22</td>
<td>T: Guest Speaker or In-class Project</td>
<td>R: Guest Speaker or In-class Project</td>
<td>[Attendance: Adams through Freeland F2F; All others through Zoom]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week Ten:  
Oct 27– Oct 29  
Topic Description  
Readings:  
Assignment (s):  
T: The Future of Food Security  
[Attendance: Fretty through Perry F2F; All others through Zoom]  
R: The Future of Food Security  
[Attendance: Reed through Woods F2F; All others through Zoom]  

Week Eleven:  
Nov 3– Nov 5  
Topic Description  
Readings:  
Assignment (s):  
T: Project Work  
[Attendance through Zoom; In-class optional]  
R: Project Work  
[Attendance through Zoom; In-class optional]  

Week Twelve:  
Nov 10– Nov 12  
Topic Description  
Readings:  
Assignment (s):  
T: Project Presentation Practice and Review  
[Attendance through Zoom; In-class optional]  
R: Project Presentation Practice and Review  
[Attendance through Zoom; In-class optional]  

Week Thirteen:  
Nov 17– Nov 19  
Topic Description  
Readings:  
Assignment (s):  
T: Project Presentations  
[Attendance through Zoom; In-class optional]  
R: Project Presentations  
[Attendance through Zoom; In-class optional]  

Week Fourteen:  
Nov 24– Nov 26  
Topic Description  
Readings:  
Assignment (s):  
T: Project Presentations  
[Attendance through Zoom; In-class optional]  
R: Thanksgiving Holiday  

Week Fifteen:  
Dec 1  
Topic Description  
Readings:  
Assignment (s):  
T: Last Class Day; Course Review

Final Exam  
Based on University Calendar [Exam will be through Canvas]
Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library
The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. Phone: 936-261-1500; Website: J. B. Coleman Library.

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 the student is unsure of the best resource for their needs. Some students are supported by faculty advisors 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. You can find your advisor's location by academic major at the Academic 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 is offered face-to-face in the UTC, in virtual face-to-face sessions, and through online sessions at 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: University Tutoring Center.

The Writing Center
The Writing Center provides well-trained peer tutors that 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. Student must register for Grammarly by using their student email address. In addition, students have access to face-to-face as well as virtual tutoring services either asynchronously via email or synchronously via Zoom. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 209; Phone: 936-261-3724; Website: The Writing Center; Grammarly Registration.

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 Alert helps 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 PVPlace and click on Academic Early Alert on the left sidebar. Phone: 936-261-5902; Website: Academic 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 provides assistance to 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: Student Counseling Services.
Office of Testing Services
Testing Services serves to create opportunities by offering 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: Testing Services.

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 hardware and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of 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: Disability Services.

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-assisted and 2-way video course delivery. For more details and contact information, visit: CIITS Student Webpage; Phone: 936-261-3283.

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; Website: Veteran Affairs.

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: Office for Student Engagement.

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: Career Services.

University Rules and Procedures
Academic Misconduct (See Student Planner)
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Planner, especially the section on academic misconduct (see University Administrative Guidelines on Academic Integrity). Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures. As listed in the PVAMU Undergraduate Catalog, Graduate Catalog, and the Student Planner, 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 or to have attempted to commit the following academic misconduct may also be subject to disciplinary review and action as outlined in the PVAMU Student Planner.

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. **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.

4. **Conspiracy**: Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of academic/scholastic dishonesty.

5. **Fabrication of Information/Forgery**: Use or submission of contrived, invented, forged, or altered information in any assignment, laboratory exercise, or test; tampering with or production of a counterfeit document, particularly documents which make up the student’s academic record. Examples: making up a source or citing nonexistent publication or article; representing made up data as real for an experiment in a science laboratory class; forging a change of grade or student withdrawal record; falsifying any document related to a student academic exercise.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Planner)
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, or (2) the ability of students to benefit from the instructional program, or (3) the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Office for Student Conduct under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct
Sexual harassment of students and employees at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating the university’s sexual harassment policy will be subject to disciplinary action. In accordance with the Texas A&M University System guidelines, your instructor is obligated to report to the Office of Title IX Compliance (titleixteam@pvamu.edu) any instance of sexual misconduct involving a student, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which the instructor becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. The faculty and staff of PVAMU actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like assistance, or have questions, they may contact the Title IX Coordinator at 936-261-2144 or titleixteam@pvamu.edu. More information can be found at the [Title IX Webpage](https://www.p vamos.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 condition, 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. More information can be found at this [webpage](https://www.pvamu.edu/planning/bernard/.)

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 936-261-1744 or 1792.

**Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)**

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports 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 internet. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in 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 rests 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 Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint. Students can file Academic Complaints and/or Grade Appeals at this [webpage](#).

**Technical Considerations**

**Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**
- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 10 or later version; Mac with OS High Sierra*
- Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi*
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari or Firefox

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

**Note:** Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

**Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:**
- Sending and receiving emails
- 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 discussions 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 session. Before class session begins, test audio, video and lighting to alleviate technology issues.

**Technical Support**
Students should go to the 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 (CIITS) at 936-261-3283 or email ciits@pvamu.edu.

**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 take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

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**
To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, Prairie View A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- **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.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including 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 difficult to reliably maintain.

- **Physical Distancing** - Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.

- **Classroom Ingress/Egress** - Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Students should leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded, should not congregate in hallways and should maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.

- **Face-to-face Class** - To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office for Student Conduct for adjudication. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.

- **COVID-19 Guidelines for Student Conduct Adjudication** - The mandatory COVID-19 Training/Certification taken by all students serves as the 1st Warning for violation of COVID-19 Guidelines.
- 1st incident: upon review of Incident Report and finding of responsibility — Conduct Probation
- 2nd incident: upon review of Incident Report and finding of responsibility — Suspension
- Consult the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Planner or [Student Conduct website](#) for additional information on Conduct Probation and Suspension.

**Personal Illness and Quarantine** - Students required to quarantine must 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](mailto:studentconduct@pvamu.edu).