



**COMM 1311 Fundamentals of Speech Communications
Spring 2024**

Instructor: Hakeem Harris
Section # and CRN: Section P05 CRN 23556
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Office Hours: TR 8 am – 9:30 am F10 am – 12 pm
Mode of Instruction: Face to Face

Course Location: Hobart Thomas Taylor 1A110

Class Days & Times: TR 11:00 – 12:20 am

Catalog Description: This course is designed to introduce students to fundamental communication theories, principles and practices. Students will develop public speaking skills, interpersonal skills, and practical applications.

Prerequisites: Unconditional Admission OR ENGL 0131

Co-requisites: Unconditional Admission OR ENGL 0131

Required Text(s):
 Beebe, Steven A. and Susan J. Beebe. *Public Speaking: An Audience-Centered Approach*. 10th Edition. New York: Pearson Publishing, 2017.

Recommended Text(s): Hacker, Diana. *Pocket Style Manual 5e with 2009 MLA and 2010 APA Updates + Research and Documentation in the Electronic Age 5e*. Bedford/St Martins, 2010.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply communication concepts and theories.
2. Communicate ideas effectively and with sensitivity to a variety of audiences.
3. Demonstrate effective use of a variety of communication tools and styles.
4. Demonstrate communication proficiency appropriate for meeting personal and professional needs.

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	Write clearly, precisely, and in a well-organized manner	1, 2, 3, 4	Communication
2	Demonstrate critical thinking, reading, and viewing skills on required projects	1, 2, 3, 4	Critical Thinking
3	Research, develop, evaluate, and present arguments grounded in research-based knowledge	1, 2, 3, 4	Critical Thinking

4	Apply analytical, precise, and elaborated terms and concepts for talking and writing about communication artifacts and the ways in which they communicate meaning	1, 2, 3, 4	Critical Thinking
			Communication Social Responsibility
5	Critically conduct, evaluate, and analyze research theories and findings published in various scholarly source materials in the preparation of assignments	1, 2, 3, 4	Critical Thinking Communication
6	Evaluate various communication artifacts and their effects on audiences and society	1, 2, 3, 4	Communication Critical Thinking Social Responsibility
7	Demonstrate how communication artifacts are constructed and how communication artifacts in turn construct meaning about national and global communities	1, 2, 3, 4	Communication Critical Thinking Social Responsibility

Major Course Requirements
Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement		Value	Total
1)	Hall of Fame Speech	25	5%
2)	Group Speech & Outline	50	10%
3)	Informative Speech & Outline	100	20%
4)	Persuasive Speech	100	20%
5)	Online Graded Discussions	50	10%
6)	Midterm Exam	50	10%
7)	Final Exam	50	10%
8)	Interview Assignment	25	5%
9)	Other Class Activites	50	10%
Total:	Total:	500	100%

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 90-100%	450-500
B = 80-89%	400-449
C = 70-79%	350-399
D = 60-69%	300-349
F =59% and Below	0-299

Detailed Description of Major Assignments: [\[Describe each assignment valued at 10% of grade or more\]](#)

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement	Description
<i>Special Occasion Speech, Option 1</i>	This 2-4 minute speech links your subject (a person, event, etc.) with a specific trait, either positive (if praising) or negative (if condemning). You will establish a specific occasion/ceremony (Hall of Fame induction, funeral, tribute, toast, interview, impromptu, dedication of a memorial, etc.). You will elicit an emotional response through careful use of language style while reinforcing beliefs and feelings your audience already holds. (Attempts to change those beliefs and feelings are better suited to Persuasive Speeches.)
Group Speech	This 10-15 minute speech is a group presentation. Possible presentations include (but are not limited to) how-to demonstrations, event planning, etc. Each member must speak for equal amounts of time. This assignment is worth 100 points.
Informative Speech	This 4-6 minute speech provides information new to most of your audience. It maybe useful to think of this speech as a teaching opportunity, a short lecture about an important topic. This speech also could be a demonstration (“how-to”) speech. You are required to use at least one presentation aid. This assignment is worth 200 points
Persuasive Speech	This 5-7 minute speech will persuade your audience to perform an action. Through carefully crafted and well-supported arguments, and based upon the information you have given them and the emotional response you have elicited, you must persuade your audience to act on an issue. You are required to use at least one presentation aid (to depict the severity of the social

	problem, the amount of people it affects, and how your solution will mitigate the problem if implemented, etc.). This assignment is worth 200 points.
Quizzes, Tests, Exams Instructor-specific assignments	Students will use communication skills to demonstrate knowledge of course material. Directions for Instructor-specific assignments will come from your instructor. Instructor-specific assignments can include (but are not limited to) quizzes, activities, participation, homework, interviews, speeches, etc. Assignments in this category, when combined, will have total worth 100 points.
Participation	This is a public speaking course. As such, students will be expected to speak publicly. This means that students will be actively encouraged to participate in class discussions, and give their input on course material. This sort of active participation in class is key to any communications class, including this one. Participation will be gauged by your instructor. Students are graded on the quality as well as the quantity of their class participation. Attendance with a few brief comments all semester is average (C) participation. Above average and excellent participation (B or A) includes regular frequent questions, comments, and/or examples that demonstrate an understanding of course material, contribute to the class topic, and seek additional knowledge relevant to the class topic.

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies: Available on eCourses

Course Procedures and Other Instructor Policies (for attendance, classroom etiquette, etc): This aspect of this syllabus is posted on the eCourses shell for this course.

Speech Sign-Up: In this class students will sign-up for their speeches. Speech sign-up will consist of picking both a day and order to speak in. Students are expected to adhere to the time that they have signed up for. This is a contract between a speaker and an audience, promising that they will be there to share their words at a specific time. If a student does not attend class to speak at the proper time and cannot produce **documented** evidence to prove their absence, then they will receive a **ZERO (0)** for their speech grade. This is in adherence to the LCOM Student Expectation that **NO** late work is accepted in this class.

Respect On Speech Days: There are a few things that students need to keep in mind during speech days. These guidelines **must** be followed and will help to create a respectful environment for all speakers. They are as follows:

- 1.) Phones - On speech days phones need to be completely silenced and put away. There is nothing more demoralizing to a speaker than seeing their audience looking down at their cell phones rather than paying attention to their speech.
- 2.) Entering the Class - If you are late to class on a speech day the door will be closed. You will need to listen at the door and if you hear someone talking, **DO NOT** enter the room. This is highly disrespectful and can distract the speaker. Instead, wait until you hear applause, and then quietly make your entrance into the classroom.
- 3.) Listening - Each of you will speak multiple times throughout the semester, and you will want your audience to be attentive to your words. For that very reason, you should do the same for your fellow students. Listen carefully, and be a good audience member to the speaker. They will return the favor when it is your turn.

Taskstream

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

Semester Calendar

Week One: Jan 15-21

Welcome and Introduction to Course and Syllabus

Topic Description**

Readings: Beebe Chapter 1: Speaking with Confidence Beebe Chapter 2: Presenting Your First Speech
Assignment (s):

**Week Two: Jan 22 –
Jan 28**

Topic Description

Readings: Beebe Chapter 5: Analyzing Your Audience Beebe Chapter
6: Developing Your Speech
Beebe Chapter 7: Gathering and Using Supporting Material

Assignment (s):

**Week Three: Jan 29 –
Feb 4**

Topic Description

Readings: Beebe Chapter 8: Organizing and Outlining Your Speech
Beebe Chapter 9: Introducing and Concluding Your Speech Beebe Chapter 11: Delivering
Your Speech

Assignment (s):

**Week Four: Feb 5 –
11**

Topic Description

Readings: Beebe Chapter 13: Speaking to Inform
Beebe Chapter 12: Designing and Using Presentation Aids

Assignment (s)

Week Five: Feb 12-18

Topic Description

Readings: Beebe Chapter 10: Using Words Well: Speaker Language and Style Beebe Chapter 16:
Speaking for Special Occasions and Purposes

Assignment (s):

Workshops: Conducting Research & Writing Outlines; Work Days

Week Six: Feb 19 - 25

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s): **TR Special Occasion Speeches: Outline & Individual Rubrics Due**
Workshops: Conducting Research & Writing Outlines; Work Days

**Week Seven: Feb 26 –
Mar 3**

COMM WEEK 2019

Topic Description

Readings: Beebe Chapter 3: Speaking Freely and Ethically Beebe Chapter 4: Listening to Speeches

Assignment (s):

Week Eight: Mar 4 -11

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s): **TR Group Speeches: Group Outline & Individual Rubrics Due Midterm Exam:
Chapters 1-2, 5-9, 16 (eCourses)**
Workshops: Conducting Research & Writing Outlines; Work Days

Week Nine: Mar 18-

24

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s): **TR Informative Speeches: Rubric & Outline Due**
Workshops: Conducting Research & Writing Outlines; Work Days

Week Ten: Mar 25 - 31

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s): **TR Informative Speeches: Rubric & Outline Due**
Workshops: Conducting Research & Writing Outlines; Work Days

Week Eleven: Apr 1-7
Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s): **TR Informative Speeches: Rubric & Outline Due**

Week Twelve: Apr 8 -14
Topic Description

Readings:

Beebe Chapter 14: Understanding Principles of Persuasive Speaking
Beebe Chapter 15: Using Persuasive Strategies

Assignment (s): **TR Persuasive Speeches: Rubric & Outline Due**

Week Thirteen: Apr 15 - 21
Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s): **TR Persuasive Speeches: Rubric & Outline Due (Thanksgiving Holiday)**
Workshops: Conducting Research & Writing Outlines; Work Days

Week Fourteen: Apr 22 -28
Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s): **TR Persuasive Speeches: Rubric & Outline Due**
Workshops: Conducting Research & Writing Outlines; Work Days
Thanksgiving

Week Fifteen: Apr 29- May 4
Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Week Sixteen: May 4 - 12
Topic Description.

Final Exam: Beebe Chapters 3-4, 10-15 (eCourses)

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library

The John B. Coleman Library's mission is to enhance the scholarly pursuit of knowledge, to foster intellectual

curiosity, and to promote life-long learning and research through our innovative services, resources, and cultural programs, which support the Prairie View A&M University's global mission of teaching, service, and research. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to

further the educational goals of students and faculty. Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/>; Phone: 936-261-1500

Academic Advising Services

Academic Advising Services offers students a variety of services that contributes to student success and leads towards graduation. We assist students with understanding university policies and procedures that affect academic progress. We support the early alert program to help students get connected to success early in the semester. We help refer students to the appropriate academic support services when they are unsure of the best resource for their needs. Faculty advisors support some students in their respective colleges. Your faculty advisor can be identified in PantherTracks. Advisors with Academic Advising Services are available to all students. We are located across campus. Find your advisor's location by academic major at www.pvamu.edu/advising. Phone: 936-261-5911

The University Tutoring Center

The University Tutoring Center (UTC) offers free tutoring and academic support to all registered PVAMU students. The mission of the UTC is to help provide a solid academic foundation that enables students to become confident, capable, independent learners. Competent and caring staff and peer tutors guide students in identifying, acquiring, and enhancing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to reach their desired goals. Tutoring and academic support are offered face-to-face in the UTC, in virtual face-to-face sessions (<https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/sass/university-tutoring-center/>), and through online sessions (<https://www.pvamu.edu/pvplace/>). Other support services available for students include Supplemental Instruction, Study Break, Academic Success Workshops, and Algebra Study Jam. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 307; Phone: 936-261-1561; Email: pvtutoring@pvamu.edu; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/sass/university-tutoring-center/>

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides well-trained peer tutors to assist students with writing assignments at any stage of the writing process. Tutors help students with various writing tasks from understanding assignments, brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, researching, and integrating sources. Students have free access to Grammarly online writing assistance. Grammarly is an automated proofreading and plagiarism detection tool. Students must register for Grammarly by using their student email address. In addition, students have access to face-to-face and virtual tutoring services either asynchronously via email or synchronously via Zoom. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 209; Phone: 936-261-3724; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/writing-center/>; Grammarly Registration: <https://www.grammarly.com/enterprise/signup>

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 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, your instructor is obligated to report to the Office of Title IX Compliance (titleixteam@pvamu.edu) any instance of sexual misconduct involving a student, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which the instructor becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. The faculty and staff of PVAMU actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like assistance or have questions, they may contact the Title IX Coordinator at 936-261-2144 or titleixteam@pvamu.edu. More information can be found at www.pvamu.edu/titleix, including confidential resources available on campus.

Protections and Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces, among other statutes, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. This protection includes those who may be pregnant and parenting. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy or parenting should contact the Office of Title IX for information, resources, and support at titleixteam@pvamu.edu. Additional information and/or support may be provided by the Office of Disability Services or the Office of the Dean of Students.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Prairie View A&M University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity in its programs and activities. The University is committed to supporting students and complying with The Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of discrimination or harassment, we encourage you to report it. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Director of Equal Opportunity & Diversity has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Harrington Science Building, Suite 109 or by phone at 936-261-1744 or 1792.

Class Attendance Policy (See the University Online Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports the full academic development of each learner, whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or the internet. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in the assignment of a grade of "F." Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rest with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the University Online Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Technical Considerations

Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 10 or later version; Mac with OS High Sierra*

- Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi*
- High-speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, or Firefox

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

* 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

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-reporting** – Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to report their positive test results within 48 hours using the [PVAMU Self-Reporting Form](#). Proof of off-campus and self-administered home test results must be sent to covid-19@pvamu.edu. Proof for self-administered home test is a picture of the test with a photo ID in the same photo.
- **Self-monitoring** – Students should follow public health guidance to help slow the spread of the virus, including being vaccinated. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should not participate in face-to-face instruction.
- **Face Coverings** – Face coverings (KN-95, surgical mask, etc.) are highly 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. Communication with the student's instructor for remote support will take place by the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Academic Engagement and Success. 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 may qualify for an excused absence. To receive an excused absence, students must provide appropriate documentation to the Office for Student Conduct, studentconduct@pvamu.edu.
- **Questions** – For answers regarding COVID-19 policies and/or procedures, students should refer to www.pvamu.edu/coronavirus or email covid-19@pvamu.edu.