

MATH 1324 – Finite Math Syllabus Spring 2024

General Course Information

Information Item	Information
Instructor:	Stephanie Ringgold
Section # and CRN:	Z03-24703
Office Location:	Online - https://pvpanther.zoom.us/my/ringgold?pwd=d1hEcTZnZHdhQzFub1ZTcHRDNWF4UT09
Office Phone:	870-584-1480
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Office Hours:	Tue & Thur, 1:00-2:00pm; Fri, 11:00am-12:00pm
Mode of Instruction:	Asynchronous - Online
Course Location:	Canvas
Class Days & Times:	n/a
Catalog Description:	Finite Mathematics: 3 semester hours. Linear equations and applications, linear forms and system of equations, matrix algebra and applications, linear programming (linear and simplex method), probability and applications, statistics.
Prerequisites:	Math 1314 or Math 1113 or Math 1332 or Math 1103 or Math 1511 or Math 1115
Co-requisites:	N/A
Required Text(s):	Three items are required: 1. The text –either a paper copy or an electronic version, 2. Hawkes – an online homework package, and 3. A scientific or TI 83 or 84 graphing calculator. “Mathematics with Applications in Business and Social Sciences”.
Recommended Text(s):	AAM International Journal, online at www.pvamu.edu/aam

General Course Information Table

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Demonstrate basic mathematical computational skills and distinguish uses of concepts in Calculus, Algebra, and Applied Mathematics.
- 2. Demonstrate the ability to write mathematically rigorous proofs.
- 3. Demonstrate the ability to perform advanced mathematical computations.
- 4. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate mathematical ideas, both orally and in writing.

Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes:

1. Critical Thinking Skills
2. Communications Skills
3. Teamwork
4. Empirical and Quantitative Skills
5. Personal Responsibility
6. Social Responsibility

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1. Understand and express mathematics of and apply Linear model to solving physical problems	#1, #2, #3	#1, #2, #4
2. Understand and write the concepts of Linear system of equations and their solutions	#3	#4
3. Organize, define and work with Reduced Row Echelon Form of a matrix	#3	#1, #4
4. Compute and write Augmented matrix of a linear system and convert it to RREF	#3	#1, #4
5. Solve and explain Any Linear system	#1, #3	#2, #4
6. Analyze and present the simplex method and solve related problems	#3	#1
7. Interpret and understand financing mathematics, Probability and computation principals	#1, #3	#1, #2, #4

Student Learning Outcomes Table:

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value	Total
1. Homework		15%
2. Exam 1		15%
3. Mid – term Exam		15%
4. Exam 3		15%
5. Attendance / Class activities/Accreditation Assessment		5%
6. Quizzes		15%
7. Final Exam		20%
8. Total:		100%

Course Grade Requirement Table

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

Grade	Percentage
A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89.99%
C	70% - 79.99%
D	60% - 69.99%
F	0% - 59.99%

If a student has stopped attending the course (i.e. “stopped out”) at any point after the first day of class but did not officially withdraw from the course and has missed assignments and exams, including the final exam, and performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of FN (failed no- attendance) will be assigned for the final course grade to ensure compliance with the federal Title IV financial aid regulations. In contrast, if the student has completed all assignments and exams, including the final exam, but performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of F will be assigned for the final course grade.

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement	Description
1. Homework	All homework problems are to be done using Hawkes Learning to enhance the understanding of the material. Students will be able to single sign on to access the program as soon as they register for the class.
2. Exam 1, Mid – term and Exam 3	All written exams are designed to measure knowledge of presented course material.
3. Quizzes	Weekly quizzes are designed to measure knowledge of material presented during the week.
4. Taskstream	You will have a Taskstream project that will be submitted before the end of the semester. The details of the project will be announced at a later time.
5. Final Exam	A cumulative final exam will be done at the end of the semester to measure cumulative knowledge of course material

Detailed Description of Major Assignments Table

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Departmental policies on exams and technology

1. Use of various technologies **is allowed and encouraged only** in class and for homework (HW) assignments. However, students are strongly encouraged to make sure understand the problem and the solution rather than just copy from different sources. Justification of solutions in non-automated HW assignments is required.
2. All tests must be taken at their scheduled times.
3. Any sickness' supporting document must be verified by the department of mathematics.
4. There will be NO makeup exams. If a student will be absent from class due to participation in an excused university activity, they must arrange to take the test prior to the absence.
5. A makeup test may be given only with the permission of the Department Chair.
6. Taking your tests, **you are allowed to use a calculator up to the TI 84 level** (Graphing calculator).

Accreditation:

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.

Make-up and Late Work Policy:

-There will be **NO** makeup test administered or late assignments accepted without approved university excuse. If a student missed a deadline due to participation in an excused university activity, arrangements must be made prior to the absence to take the exam or turn in the project.

-All exams must be taken at their scheduled time. If a makeup exam is approved, it should be taken when scheduled.

-If you miss an assignment, you must take your excuse to the Dean of Students, in Student Affairs to receive an official University excuse. Without this, you will not be able to make-up the work missed and you will receive an unexcused absence.

-Any sickness supporting document must be verified by Student Conduct before any make-up of assessments will be considered....

-A makeup test may be given only in cases of excused absence by the University or verifiable Doctor's excuse in cases of illnesses. The instructor reserves the right to deny any make-up of any quizzes or exams.

-Exams are to be given during class on the last class day of the exam week.

-Homework will be submitted online through Hawkes Learning on or before the due dates or a penalty will be assessed... -10% if 1-3 days late; -20% if 3+ days late

Technology Policy:

-Students must have a laptop or desktop computer.

-Use of various technologies is allowed and encouraged only in class and for homework (HW) assignments. However, students are strongly encouraged to make sure they understand the problem and the solution rather than just copy from different sources. Justification of solutions in non-automated HW assignments is required.

-Taking your tests, you are allowed to use a calculator up to the TI 84 level (Graphing calculator).

-Calculators will not be shared on exams.

-Any cellular phone and/or any other device that has access to the Internet and/or is capable of taking pictures is not allowed on the exam.

Tutoring:

Tutoring is available in the Math Department and the University library. The Math Dept. tutoring schedule will be published as soon as the semester begins. Check with the front desk in the library for their hours of operation.

Attendance:

Attendance will come from weekly in-class attendance and possibly weekly discussion questions in which you must reply to the prompt and comment on at least one peer's response. Failure to do both parts will result in a lower grade.

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.

Excused Absences

Absences due to illness, attendance at university approved activities, and family or other emergencies constitute excused absences and must be supported by documentation presented to the instructor prior to or immediately upon the student's return to class. Students are always responsible for all oral and written examinations as well as all assignments (e.g., projects, papers, reports).

Excessive Absences

Accumulation of one week of unexcused absences (for the number of clock hours equivalent to the credit for the course) constitutes excessive absenteeism. The instructor is not required to accept assignments as part of the course requirement when the student's absence is unexcused.

Absence Verification/Temporary Illness Process

1. **See page 12 of syllabus for link.**
2. Once verified, an absence verification document will be provided to share with faculty members.

Preparing for Emergencies:

I encourage each student to have a backup plan in case emergency circumstances arise while you are enrolled in this course (e.g., computer crash, natural disaster, medical emergency, etc.). I recommend the following:

- Save your work and maintain back-ups that are easily accessible to you. For instance, you could save copies of your work to a flash drive or cloud storage (e.g., Dropbox, Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, etc.). When your primary computer crashes, be sure to have backup copies to minimize your losses.
- Locate and make sure you can access a secondary computing source. In case you lose your primary computing source that you rely on to complete assignments, be sure to plan ahead and locate alternate computers or devices you can use to complete the necessary work in this course. Examples could be making a trip to a campus computer lab, visiting your local library, or rely on someone you trust to help you as needed.
- Locate and make sure you can access a secondary Internet source. Have a plan on how you will access the Internet to complete and submit your coursework if your primary source becomes unavailable. For instance, if you live near campus you can use your credentials to log on to computers in the campus labs, visit your local library, go to your favorite coffee shop, find guest access from a public school, or rely on someone you trust to help you as needed.

Semester Calendar

Week	Topics	Assignments (Homework & Quiz)
1 January 16 - January 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Hawkes • 5.1 Basics of Personal Finance 	Homework 5.1 Due on January 23 (11:59 PM) Quiz 1
2 January 22 - January 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.2 Simple and Compound Interest • 5.3 Annuities: Present and Future Value 	Homework 5.2 & 5.3 Due on January 30 (11:59 PM) Quiz 2
3 January 29 - February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4 Borrowing Money • 6.1 Solving Systems of Linear Equations by Substitution and Elimination 	Homework 5.4 & 6.1 Due on February 6 (11:59 PM) Quiz 3
4 February 5- February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test 1 Review (Chapter 5 & 6.1) 	Test 1
5 February 12 - February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.2 Matrix Notation and Gauss-Jordan Elimination • 6.3 Determinants 	Homework 6.2 & 6.3 Due on February 20 (11:59 PM) Quiz 4
6 February 19 - February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.4 Basic Matrix Operations • 6.5 Inverses of Square Matrices 	Homework 6.4 & 6.5 Due on February 27 (11:59 PM) Quiz 5
7 February 26 - March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.1 Linear Inequalities in Two Variables • 7.2 Linear Programming: The Graphical Approach 	Homework 7.1 & 7.2 Due on March 5 (11:59 PM) Quiz 6
8 March 4 - March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Review (Chapter 5, 6 & 7.1, 7.2) 	Midterm
9 March 11 - March 16	<i>Spring Break</i>	
10 March 18 - March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.3 The Simplex Method: Maximization • 7.4 The Simplex Method: Duality and Minimization 	Homework 7.3 & 7.4 Due on March 26 (11:59 PM) Quiz 7
11 March 25 - March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.1 Set Notation • 8.2 Operations with Sets 	Homework 8.1 & 8.2 Due on April 2 (11:59 PM) Quiz 8

12 April 1 - April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.3 Introduction to Probability 8.4 Counting Principles: Combinations and Permutations 	Homework 8.3 & 8.4 Due on April 9 (11:59 PM) Quiz 9
13 April 8 - April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 3 Review (7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4) 	Exam 3
14 April 15 - April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.5 Counting Principles and Probability 8.6 Probability Rules and Bayes' Theorem 	Homework 8.5 & 8.6 Due on April 23 (11:59 PM) Quiz 10
15 April 22 - April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.7 Expected Value 	Homework 8.7 Due on April 28 (11:59 PM) Quiz 11
16 April 29 - May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final exam Review Comprehensive Final Exam 	May 6 (Last Class Day)
16 May 6 - May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Comprehensive Final Exam 	

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: pv tutoring@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 [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-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.