



**POSC 2350 GLOBAL ISSUES
Spring 2024**

General Course Information

Course Information This course is on contemporary global issues.
Instructor: Dr. Roman Krastev
Section # and CRN: 24112
Office Location: Woolfolk 204J
Office Phone: 936-261-2561
Email Address: rokrastev@pvamu.edu
Office Hours: MW 13:00-15:00; 16:30-17:30, or by appointment
Mode of Instruction: Face-to-face
Course Location: Hobart Thomas Taylor Sr Hall 2B210
Class Days & Times: MW 15:00-16:20
Catalog Description: Critical evaluation of selected current issues and problems in world politics facing the global community, such as war, terrorism, the environment, hunger, energy, population, migration, human rights, and trade.
Prerequisites n/a
Co-requisites n/a
Required Text(s): The CQ Researcher, ed. 2022. *Global Issues 2022 Edition*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1-0718-3528-9.
Recommended Text(s): N/A

General Course Information Table

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1. Identify and describe pressing global issues or challenges in world politics.	SLO #5	Critical thinking
2. Analyze critically the causes of current world problems.	SLO #3	Critical thinking
3. Evaluate possible solutions to global issues or challenges based on existing data, research, or available technology.	SLO #3	Empirical and quantitative skills
4. Describe contrasting worldviews on global issues.	SLO #1	Social responsibility
5. Compare and contrast the consequences of action or inaction to address a specific issue in world politics.	SLO #3	Social responsibility
6. Engage in oral debates on global issues from culturally diverse perspectives.	SLO #4	Communication
7. Research and write a report that critically evaluates proposed solutions to a current world problem.	SLO #2	Communication

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value (in points)	Total (value of grade)
1. Exam One	100	15%
2. Exam Two (Midterm)	100	15%
3. Exam Three	100	15%
4. Exam Four (Final)	100	15%
5. Writing Assignment: Research Paper	100	20%
6. Certificate of Plagiarism	100	05%
7. Weekly Chapter-by-chapter Discussions	100	15%
Total		100%

Grading criteria and conversion: A=90→100; B=80→89; C=70→79; D=60→69; F=below 60

If a student has stopped attending the course (i.e. “stopped out”) at any point after the first day of class but did not officially withdraw from the course and has missed assignments and exams and performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of FN (failed-non-attendance) will be assigned for the final course grade to ensure compliance with the federal Title IV financial aid regulations. In contrast, if the student has completed all assignments and exams, but performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of F will be assigned for the final course grade.

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement	Description
Exams 1-4 (Altogether = 60% of final course grade)	<p>All four exams will be online and must be taken using the Respondus Lockdown Browser/Proctorio. You cannot use Safari, Firefox, Chrome, etc. The following campus facilities offer access: JB Coleman Library (rooms 210 and 210B and the Student Success Center on the third floor), MSC (1st floor main lab), Farrell Hall (1st floor main lab), Delco (room 301), Hobart Taylor (room 1A109), and E.E. O’Banion (“New”) Science (room 123). You can also download Respondus to your own device at http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=975813429.</p> <p>Exams must be taken during the 24 hour period for which they are scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Exams are NOT cumulative. Exams will contain 50 multiple choice questions.</p>
Research Paper (20% of final course grade)	<p>Students must submit a paper on a global issue of their choice. This assignment will count as 20% of the final grade. Your paper must meet the following content, format and submission requirements:</p> <p>CONTENT REQUIREMENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose a global issue such as climate change, arms exports, human trafficking, WMD, infectious diseases, drug trafficking, women’s rights, ethnic/racial discrimination, etc. Explain the nature of this issue. Explain how and why some groups are more negatively impacted than others. [CT, CO and SR] 2. Present and critique three contrasting proposals to resolve your issue (one proposal can be “do nothing”). Choose one of these as the best option and use data (charts, graphs, etc.) to explain why this is the best choice. [CT, CO and EQS] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Present the data you have gathered from reliable sources and analyze the trends regarding your issue. Is it growing worse or better? How do you know? [CO, EQS] 3. Discuss how and why your own past behavior may have made this issue better or worse. Explain how your new knowledge of this issue might lead to a change in your own behavior. Who will your changes impact and what do you hope to accomplish? [CO, SR]

	<p>4. Cite at least three (3) reliable, quality references within the body of the paper using the <i>Chicago Manual of Style's</i> parenthetical citation style. One of the citations MUST come from the class textbook (-10 points if this is not done). You must have at least three parenthetical citations in the body of the paper that correctly match the sources properly formatted in the Works Cited Page. [CO]</p> <p>A paper with no parenthetical source citations in its body OR no works cited section at the end of will receive a mark of 0. No second chances.</p> <p>FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Typed, 500-750 words (2-3 pages, not counting Works Cited Page), 12-point font, double-spaced. 2. Your name, my name, POSC 2350, and the date. 3. A title is required, but a separate title page is not necessary. 4. An introduction with a thesis/statement of purpose in the first paragraph: "This paper will..." 5. A logically organized and sequenced body followed by a clearly stated conclusion. 6. Use of the <i>Chicago Manual of Style's</i> parenthetical citation format. Students must be very careful and pay attention to details when they examine and cite internet sources. A paper with no parenthetical source citations and/or no Works Cited Page at the end will receive a grade of 0; no second chances will be allowed. 7. Use of footnotes or endnotes is prohibited. 8. Using encyclopedias, like Wikipedia, Ballotpedia, history.com, kids.law.com, etc. is prohibited (-10 points). 9. Use of AI (e.g. ChatGPT) or word mixers (e.g. Spinbot) is prohibited and will result in a grade of 0; no second chances will be allowed. <p>SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your paper must be submitted via the Turn It In link found in eCourses. You do NOT need a code; log into eCourses and click on the link that says, "Global Issues Resarch Paper," then click on the submission tab and follow the prompts to upload your paper. 2. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances, so plan accordingly. 3. A paper placed in my office, in my mailbox or emailed will not be accepted for grading.
Plagiarism Certificate (5% of final course grade)	Log into eCourses, click on Modules and complete the Academic Integrity Module. Upon completion, you will get a certificate, which will have your name and the date on it. Then Upload a .pdf of .jpg of the certificate onto Canvas for credit.
Discussions (15% of final course grade)	Each student will need to post on a weekly basis two entries in the discussion board on Canvas. One entry will be a personal commentary on the week's readings, while another entry will be a response to the original entry of a classmate.

Detailed Description of Major Assignments Table

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Political Science Program Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic crime and the Political Science Program has a strict, rigorous enforcement policy for students who commit plagiarism. In general, plagiarism is using another person's words, statistics, and/or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism, which is formally defined in the University Rules and Procedures section of this syllabus, can come in many forms, such as directly quoting a source without quotation marks, directly quoting a source without giving a reference citation, paraphrasing a source without giving a reference citation and so forth. It is incumbent on students to seek help from the instructor or other University resources to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in their work. Any student caught committing ANY type of plagiarism in a Political Science course will receive one OR MORE of the following punishments, depending on the severity of the offense and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct:

1. Grade Penalty (an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course);
2. Letter of Reprimand

3. Probation
4. Suspension
5. Dismissal from Academic Program
6. Expulsion from the university.

Students must consult the University's Code of Conduct for other forms of academic dishonesty and the punishments.

Electronic Communication Policy: Notes and other course materials are posted on *Canvas/eCourses*, which is available at <https://pvamu.instructure.com/>. You are expected to use this website as a resource for the class. The University also maintains an email account for you. I may send you notices so **I expect you to check your Prairie View A&M email account at least once a day.** If you have problems accessing your account, call (936) 261-2525. Not having access to your Panther Email is not an excuse for missing important information.

Make-up Policy: You will only be allowed to make up an exam or assignment if you have a valid excuse. Valid excuses include *documented* illness, school or business trips, or family crises. Without proper documentation, there will be no makeup assignments. **If granted a make-up, you have a period of three (3) class days to schedule your make-up assignment or exam. After that point, the grade becomes a zero.** Please provide written documentation for why you need to make up an assignment from a university official, doctor, police officer, or coach. Student athletes must notify me **BEFORE** they attend an event to represent the school and **MUST** be proactive in getting their assignments completed. Make up exams may be an essay/short answer test or a modified version of the original exam. Any assigned extra credit cannot be made up.

Grade Groveling Policy: Students concerned about their grades should endeavor to attend all class sessions and complete all work to the best of their ability. Students **earn** high grades, based on demonstrating mastery of the subject matter and not based on what they want or need for their overall GPA. Therefore, no grade groveling will be entertained and no "do-overs" allowed.

Attendance Policy: For this class, students are allowed three unexcused absences **BEFORE** the mid-term, after which the mid-term course grade will be reduced by a full letter. Students are then allowed three additional unexcused absences **AFTER** the mid-term, after which **the final course grade will be reduced by a full letter.**

Late/Tardy Policy: Attending class on time is important. Class will start at the scheduled time and will end at the scheduled time. If you come to class more than 9 minutes late (in the 10th minute or later), you will be asked to leave class and you will be counted absent. **For online asynchronous classes**, students are expected to log onto their Canvas account and utilize the instructional resources on their own time.

16-Week Semester Calendar, Spring 2024

Week One: 1/16-1/19

Topic Description The New Arms Race
Readings: Chapter 1
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 1

Week Two: 1/22-1/26

Topic Description Medical Tourism
Readings: Chapter 2
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 2

Week Three: 1/29-2/2

Topic Description Pandemic Preparedness
Readings: Chapter 3
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 3

Week Four: 2/5-2/9

Topic Description U.S. Foreign Aid
Readings: Chapter 4
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 4
Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4) on Wednesday 2/7 by 23:59

Week Five: 2/12-2/16

Topic Description Supply Chains at Risk
Readings: Chapter 5
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 5

Week Six: 2/19-2/23

Topic Description China Rising
Readings: Chapter 6
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 6

Week Seven: 2/26-3/1

Topic Description The Natural Gas Industry
Readings: Chapter 7
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 7
Plagiarism Certificate due by Wednesday 2/28

Week Eight: 3/4-3/8

Topic Description K-pop
Readings: Chapter 8
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 8
Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8) on Wednesday 3/6 by 23:59

Week Nine: 3/18-3/22

Topic Description Global Protests Movements
Readings: Chapter 9
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 9

Week Ten: 3/25-2/29

Topic Description The Abraham Accords
Readings: Chapter 10
Assignment (s): Discussion Posts for Ch. 10

Week Eleven: 4/1-4/5

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Immigration Overhaul

Chapter 11

Discussion Posts for Ch. 11

Writing Assignment due by Wednesday 4/3

Week Twelve: 4/8-4/12

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Targeted Killings

Chapter 12

Discussion Posts for Ch. 12

Exam 3 (Chapters 9-12) on Wednesday 4/10 by 23:59

Week Thirteen: 4/15-4/19

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Child Trafficking and Fuel Efficiency Standards

Chapter 13 and Chapter 14

Discussion Posts for Chs. 13 & 14

Week Fourteen: 4/22-4/26

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Zoonotic Diseases and The Future of Meat

Chapter 15 and Chapter 16

Discussion Posts for Chs. 15 & 16

Week Fifteen: 4/30-5/8

Topic Description

Readings:

Assignment (s):

Final Exams

Exam 4 (Chapters 13-16) on Wednesday 5/1 by 23:59

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](#) 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](#).

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.

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 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.