



## POSC 4310: URBAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Dr. William T. Hoston  
**Section # and CRN:** POSC 4310 P01 CRN 24742  
**Office Location:** 321 G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building  
**Office Phone:** (936) 261-2557  
**Email Address:** [wihoston@pvamu.edu](mailto:wihoston@pvamu.edu) (Best method of contact)  
**Office Hours:** TuTh 12:30pm – 1:30pm  
**Mode of Instruction:** Face-to-Face, Jan 16, 2024 – April 26, 2024

**Course Location:** Hobart Thomas Taylor Sr Hall 2B209  
**Class Days & Times:** TuTh 11:00am – 12:20pm

**Catalog Description:** This course examines the structure and functions of urban government. Considerable attention is given to the politics and current problems of metropolitan areas.

**Course Description:** How do we define “urban politics”? What constitutes politics and where does it take place? What is political about the naming of Urban politics, and about theorizing Urban life more broadly? How do different ways of studying Urban life – different epistemologies – transform Urban life and Urban space itself?

This class will try and understand “how” and “why” certain policies and programs are adopted. To what extent does Urban politics focus on encouraging structural and cultural growth and to what extent does it focus on addressing the most vexing social and cultural problems? Under what circumstances do cities, localities, and suburbs adopt ordinances and policies that effectively respond to the challenges faced by the people?

To help students answer this question, we present readings, class discussions, and assignments that will draw on analyses of – and materials about – a wide variety of urban concerns in the United States of America, with a particular focus on ordinances and policies related to the betterment of the Black community.

See E-Courses for **Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives**.

**Required Text:** [Mark Davidson & Deborah Martin, eds. 2013. \*Urban Politics: Critical Approaches\*. London: SAGE. ISBN: 9780857023988](#)  
(Provided)

**Additional Readings will be provided.**

**Class Requirements:** The instructor will conduct an interactive classroom setting that challenges students to “learn” and “critically think” about substantive issues and concerns. This is **NOT** the traditional lecture environment. **Class discussion will be promoted.** Class participation is a very valuable part of the learning experience in this course. Questions are welcomed and time will often be set aside for discussion. In turn, all students will be required to participate. Active involvement is not only suggested, but is required to ensure a good grade. This course will be greatly enriched if students with views across the political spectrum voice their opinions. The goal is to have substantive discussions grounded in the literature **NOT** merely opinionated, experience-based discussions. Readings must be completed **BEFORE** the class period for which they are assigned. Students are expected to come to class prepared to share their questions, comments, criticisms, and insights with others.

**In this class, students must conduct themselves in a professional manner. It is important for students to respect the views of others.** While individuals will have diverse opinions, we will respect their views by displaying courteous behavior. Do not show disrespect toward other students. Any actions that purposefully and maliciously distract the class will not be allowed. *The instructor reserves the right to ask such individuals to leave the classroom.*

- (1) Please place all cell phones on vibrate before entering class. Students that answer cell phones in class or check text messages “repeatedly” will be asked to leave.
- (2) When possible, please refrain from text messaging in class. Those identified as text messaging repeatedly will be asked to leave. In case of emergency, please step outside of the class and text.
- (3) No headphones and/or earphones (Airpods) are to be worn in class.
- (4) Students that bring laptops, iPads, and tablets to class should strictly adhere to using it specifically to take notes or view our online activities.
- (5) No random surfing the Internet, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Pinterest, Snapchat, Tinder, TikTok, Taking pictures/videos in class, etc.
- (6) No red hats/shirts that promote hate speech are to be worn in class.
- (7) No sleeping in class. You will be asked to leave.

**Emails:** Please make sure to communicate formally. Do not send emails with abbreviations, text message language, etc. **Keep all emails professional with a Header and Footer.** Please type the name of the course (POSC 4310. Halle Maria Berry) and your name in the subject line.

**Texas SB 11:** In accordance with Texas SB 11: An ACT relating to the carrying of concealed handguns on the campuses of and certain other locations associated with institutions of higher education, please respect the welfare of fellow students. That is, practice responsible usage of your concealed handgun and do not display the concealed handgun during our class time unless in a case of self-defense (see 2007, TX. SB 378).

**Class attendance:** Attendance in this class will be **mandatory**. Punctual and regular attendance at the scheduled class time is encouraged. **Class begins at 11:00am.** Therefore students should be in class at 10:55am. Students that leave class early without notifying the instructor will be counted absent. **Any individual that has reached (3) class absence will be warned. If the student fails to comply with the attendance regulations/rules, the instructor will determine the status of the students’ final grade.** An excused absence is one that is approved prior to the class session. There is to be no excessive tardiness by any student. Excessive tardiness will constitute an absence as determined by the instructor. **Do not enter class more than ten minutes late.** Students can monitor their attendance records through the Attendance link in eCourses. Please do so.

- Please inform me ahead of time, if possible, if you are unable to attend class.
- Attendance Reporting Period (NS/SH), **January 16 – January 24:** Students who do not attend class during this period will have their courses removed and financial aid reduced or cancelled

**S&%t Happens:** The “S&%t happens” clause means to be truthful about absences, tardiness, and late assignments. Things happen in life, be truthful about them, and we can work on addressing them to ensure you pass this course.

**Grading:** The final grade for the course will be based on the completion of reading materials, exams, writing assignments, attendance, participation, and adhering to deadlines for assignments. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). **The last day to drop/withdraw for the Spring 2024 semester is April 26, 2024.** A grade of “I” is given only in cases of documented emergency and/or special circumstances. Students must have a passing grade prior to be considered for an “I”. Exceptions can be waived only under very limited circumstances, such as travel to represent the University, serious documented illness, or a real family emergency. All excuses that are accepted as valid by the instructor should be accompanied by documentation.

**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.

**Method of Determining Final Course Grade; There will be four major grades for the course.**

Course Grade Requirements	Value (in points)	Total (value of grade)
1) Where I’m From...	100	10% February 1
2) Exam One	100	30% February 22
2) Exam Two	100	30% April 11
3) Final Exam	100	30% April 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal Approval by March 21</li> </ul>		

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

**PVAMU Honor Academic Code:** In this course, the PVAMU Honor Academic Code is in effect for all assignments and papers. Students must pledge that, “I affirm on my honor that I will abstain from dishonesty in all scholastic work and personal interactions.” For any questions about specific applications of the PVAMU Honor Academic Code, please refer to the PVAMU Student Life Handbook.

- Plagiarism, cheating, and all other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. All submitted work must be your own, and any use of sources (both assigned or “outside”) must be documented.

**Exams:** All exams will consist of 3-5 essay questions formulated in a graduate school/law school context. The exams dictate the student being able to apply the materials taught in class. The exams will cover only lectures and assigned reading materials. In the event that a student may not have all of the lecture notes because of absences, it is the students’ responsibility to obtain the lecture notes. Please read each chapter, articles thoroughly and take extensive notes. FYI: I do not share my notes with students who miss class.

*After the exam, grades will be posted via E-Courses. Tests will **not** be handed back in class.* If you have questions about your performance on a test, students are encouraged to visit with me during office hours. These matters are to be addressed in private. I do not discuss individual tests in class.

Where I’m From...  
 Writing Assignment #1  
 (10% of final course grade)  
 \*February 1

For this assignment, students are required to write about their social environment. That is, describe where they are from geographically, the demographic of the people, who is the mayor, the municipal structure, the city controller, police chief, fire chief, and identify three progressive policies enacted.

Submit a typed, 750-1200 word essay, 12-point font, double-spaced, Times News Roman, and standard margins. **(Further instructions will be provided).**

Final Exam  
\*April 26

The Final Exam will be a creative project. Students can choose to do the following: (1) Podcast, (2) One-on-One interview with Local Politician/Community Activist, (3) News Documentary, (4) Research Paper, and Hip-Hop - EP. **(Further instructions will be provided).**

**Important Websites:** Students are encouraged to maintain a certain level of knowledge on current political events. Information can be obtained from the following sites:

**Political Institutions:**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>  
The House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>  
The Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>  
The Courts: <http://www.uscourts.gov/>

**News and Media:**

The New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>  
Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>  
CNN: <http://www.cnn.com/POLITICS/>  
FOX: <http://www.foxnews.com>  
MSNBC: <http://www.msnbc.com>

**Important Dates:**

January 16	First Day of Class
January 16 – January 24	Attendance Reporting Period (NS/SH)
January 31	12 <sup>th</sup> Class Day
January 31	Last Day to Drop/Withdraw w/o Academic Record
March 11-16	Spring Break
March 26	Final Date to Apply for Spring 2023 Graduation
March 29	Good Friday
April 26	Last Class Day

**Spring 2024 Semester Calendar**  
**Tentative Course Outline: (Subject to Change)**

The following course outline is subject to change. Please take extensive notes on readings. **Students will need to obtain Adobe Acrobat Reader**, <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> Files are PDF.

- \* Weekly Folders, See E-Courses
- # *Urban Politics: Critical Approaches*

Week One: January 16-19

What is Urban Politics? What qualifies as Urban policy? How do we theorize Urban life broadly? What is “Black Interests”?

Readings:

**#Chapter 1: Thinking Critically About Urban Politics**

Week Two: January 22-26

Mayors, Municipalities, Political Machines, and Urban Regimes: Decline of Black Mayors in the US. Does Black Empowerment at the local level still exist? Case study of Houston.

Readings:

**#Chapter 6: Mayors and the Representation of Urban Politics**

**\*Hoston, William. 2007. “The “New Breed” of Black Mayors in the South: An Exploratory Study.” *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South*. (Spring/Summer 2007) 14(1): 1-12.**

**\*Perry, “Black Mayors, White Majorities”, Chapter 1**

Week Three: January 29-Feb. 2

Cont. Mayors, Municipalities, Political Machines, and Urban Regimes: *Was Donald J. Trump right?* Have Democratic controlled mayoral offices ruined Urban metropolitan centers? Structural and Cultural issues.

Readings:

**\*Morel, D. 2016. Race and state in the urban regime. *Urban Affairs Review*, Vol. 54, No. 3: 490-523.**

Assignment (s):  
Writing Assignment

**“Where I’m From...”? (See instructions)  
February 1**

Week Four: February 5-9

The Neoliberal City: What is Neoliberal Urbanism? Debating gentrification in Urban areas; Community Activism.

Readings:

**#Chapter 2: The Neighbourhood as a Place for (Urban) Politics**  
**#Chapter 4: Ruthless: The Foreclosure of American Urban Politics**

**Creating our own cities:**  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-09/a-wealthy-suburb-s-failed-bid-to-secede-from-baton-rouge>

<p>Week Five: February 12-16</p> <p>Podcast: Ep. 51, H-Town Progressives</p>	<p>Cont. The Neoliberal City: Youth Homelessness – The Human Side and the Political Side</p> <p><a href="https://www.htownprogressive.com/main/episode/d42f8134/ep-51-courtney-sellers-youth-homelessness-in-houston">https://www.htownprogressive.com/main/episode/d42f8134/ep-51-courtney-sellers-youth-homelessness-in-houston</a></p>
<p>Week Six: February 19-23</p>	<p><b>Exam #1 (In-Class Exam) February 22</b></p>
<p>Week Seven: February 26-March 1</p>	<p>The Social Construction of Ghettos and Suburbs: Explaining the Social Stratification. Exploring the idea of safe zones (i.e., needle exchange, safe injection sites, etc.)</p> <p>Exploring Hamsterdam. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-b6qK6dONgo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-b6qK6dONgo</a></p>
<p>Readings:</p>	<p><b>#Chapter 11: Is Class Relevant to Urban Politics?</b></p> <p>Crack cocaine vs. Opioid epidemic. <b>Racial Bias in the US Opioid Epidemic: A Review of the History of Systemic Bias and Implications for Care</b> <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6384031/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6384031/</a></p>
<p>Week Eight: March 4-8</p>	<p>The Gendered and Sexualized City: (1) How are Urban spaces gendered and sexualized? The effects? Examining ordinances at the local level –(Houston and Atlanta), (2) Sex Trafficking, and (3) How are local jurisdictions responding to Trans deaths?</p>
<p>Readings:</p>	<p><b>#Chapter 8: Queering the City.</b></p> <p><b>*Hoston, William. 2018. Black Transphobic Violence and Murders (Chapter 3) – From the book, <i>Toxic Silence</i></b></p>
<p>Podcast: The Breakfast Club (Toni D)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rggBqe-xs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rggBqe-xs</a></p>
<p><b>Week Nine: March 11-15</b></p>	<p><b>Spring Break</b></p>
<p>Week Ten: March 18-22</p>	<p>The Racialized and Ethnic City: Explaining how race shapes Urban spaces. The continued double standard in the Urban context. (1) The Color of Natural Disaster - (Hurricanes Katrina and Harvey) and (2) Sanctuary Cities</p>
<p>Readings:</p>	<p><b>*Seamster, L. 2015. The White City: Race and Urban Politics. <i>Sociology Compass</i>, Vol. 9, Issue 12: 1049-1065.</b></p>
<p>Proposal</p>	<p><b>Proposal Approval for Final Exam by March 23</b></p>
<p>Week Eleven: March 25-29</p>	<p>The Impoverish City (and the outcomes): The Truly Disadvantaged; Revisiting the work of William J. Wilson</p>

Readings:	<b>Trump Tried to Build a Wall Around West Baltimore</b> <a href="https://slate.com/business/2019/07/trump-baltimore-tweets-elijah-cummings-housing-racism.html">https://slate.com/business/2019/07/trump-baltimore-tweets-elijah-cummings-housing-racism.html</a>
Week Twelve: April 1-5	<b>Political Brutality</b>
Readings:	Urban Crime and Policing: Excessive forms of policing at the local level; Predictive models as forms of racism and discrimination.  <b>#Chapter 5: Policing the City.</b>  <b>Predictive Policing:</b> <a href="https://www.wired.com/story/los-angeles-police-department-predictive-policing/">https://www.wired.com/story/los-angeles-police-department-predictive-policing/</a>
Week Thirteen: April 8-12	<b>Exam #2 (In-Class Exam)</b> <b>April 11</b>
Week Fourteen: April 15-19	Urban Design and Smart Growth Recommendations for Urban Problems
Week Fifteen: April 22-26	<b>Final Exam (Creative Project)</b> <b>April 26</b>

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- **Read this syllabus like a contract. It specifies what can be expected from the course, as well as, the obligations of each student in preparing for and attending class. Students are expected to be aware of all the materials contained in the syllabus.**
  - **Excessive Absences, whether excused or unexcused, will result in a failing grade.**
  - **Overall rubric for grading:**

***A grade:** On exams and assignments, demonstrates original thought and synthesis of ideas, sophisticated, cogent analysis, and is clearly written or presented. Excellent work.*

***B grade:** On exams and assignments, presents above average analysis with appropriate evidence to support the ideas and is clearly written or presented. Good work.*

***C grade:** On exams and assignments, shows a basic level of understanding, with analysis limited to the most obvious arguments. Writing is competent. Adequate work.*

***D grade or below:** On exams and assignments, misunderstands or misrepresents the material, or is so poorly written presented as to obscure the analysis. Inadequate work. And more importantly, did not come and seek help from the professor when submitting work below average.*

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## Do's and Don'ts Checklist to Achieve Academic Success in College

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### *Do's*

Maintain a positive attitude.

Begin each day with a promise to become a better student.

Be determined to work hard.

Know why you are in college.

Set clear academic goals.

Go to class on time, sit in the front, and pay attention to class lecture.

Participate in class discussion.

Visit the professor's office early in the semester.

Make sure to obtain a good academic advisor.

Study hard to achieve good grades.

### *Don'ts*

Begin a negative attitude.

Look for excuses not to excel in the classroom.

Give a subpar effort in your courses.

Sabotage your college experience.

Continue to take courses without a blueprint for academic success.

Arrive at class late, sit in the back, and fall asleep.

Be afraid to participate.

Be reluctant to visit professor's office.

Wait to get academic advising or continuously change advisors.

Settle for average grades.

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Rm. 305; Phone: 936-261-3627; Email: [aetesting@pvamu.edu](mailto:aetesting@pvamu.edu); Website: [www.pvamu.edu/testing](http://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, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; Phone: 936-261-3570; Website: <https://www.pvamu.edu/careerservices/>

## University Rules and Procedures

### **Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook)**

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, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

### **Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)**

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 Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

### **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 mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:titleixteam@pvamu.edu). More information can be found at [www.pvamu.edu/titleix](http://www.pvamu.edu/titleix), including confidential resources available on campus.

### **Title IX Statement**

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) 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 sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your

experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU's Title IX Coordinator. 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 Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

### **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 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 Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:studentconduct@pvamu.edu).
- **Questions** – For answers regarding COVID-19 policies and/or procedures, students should refer to [www.pvamu.edu/coronavirus](http://www.pvamu.edu/coronavirus) or email [covid-19@pvamu.edu](mailto:covid-19@pvamu.edu).