



**PSYC 4383 African American Psychology
Spring 2023**

Instructor:	Dr. Sawyerr
Section # and CRN:	P01-4383
Office Location:	N/A
Office Phone:	N/A
Email Address:	Chsawyerr@pvamu.edu
Office Hours:	2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays
Mode of Instruction:	Face to Face

Course Location:	Juvenile Justice & Psych Bldg 260
Class Days & Times:	TR 8:00am -9:20am
Catalog Description:	African American Psychology is designed to introduce advanced undergraduate students to the research, theories, and paradigms developed to understand the attitudes, behaviors, psychosocial and educational realities of African Americans. In order to gain a more accurate understanding of the psychosocial realities of African Americans it is essential to understand intersectionality.

Prerequisites:	PSYC 1311 or PSYC 1113
Co-requisites:	None

Required Text(s):	DeFreitas, S. C. (2020). <i>African American Psychology: A Positive Psychology Perspective</i> . New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, LLC.
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Recommended Text(s):	N/A
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Student Learning Outcomes:

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in African American psychology and be able to apply them to real-world situations.	1,2,4	Communication Critical Thinking Social Responsibility
2	Integrate theoretical and experiential learning in order to form their own personal theories of African American psychology and understandings of diversity.	2,3	Critical Thinking Empirical/ Quantitative
3	Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats and for various purposes using APA format.	1	Communication

4	Explain the complexity of the historical context of the African American experience and the need for considering this history when understanding African Americans	1,2	Communication Critical Thinking
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Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement
<i>Quizzes after every chapter 50%</i>
Midterm Project 25%
<i>Cumulative Final Exam 25%</i>

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 59% and below

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-nonattendance) 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.

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Taskstream

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

Make-up Exams and Missed work:

There will be no make-up exams or permission to make up work. The only exception to this policy is severe medical emergency (e.g., hospitalization) or death in the family. If this is the case, you *must notify the instructor within 24 hours of the exam or missed work*. Also, you must provide the instructor with adequate documentation of your emergency, which will be verified. The format of the make-up exams (e.g., multiple choice, essay/short-answer questions, essay) or missed work is at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to take an exam or complete a missed work will result in a score of ZERO for the missed work or exam. Unless otherwise discussed with the instructor, any make-up exam or missed work must be made up within one week.

Incompletes are rarely given. Please see the university handbook for the university policy on the assignment of “incomplete” grades. NOTE: Students who have a failing average in a course cannot receive an incomplete grade.

Academic misconduct: (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) [see Student Handbook] will not be tolerated!!! Anyone caught engaging in any such activities – **FAILS the course!!!** Having an electronic device on during a closed book

examination will result in an assumption of cheating and an “F” in the course. The department demands persons of impeccable integrity.

Copyright Statement: Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further.

Course Communication: I will be communicating with you regarding grades and assignments. If you need to reach me, the best method is via email. Generally, I will reply to emails within 48 hours. If you do not hear back from me within 72 hours, feel free to send me another e-mail. Announcements will be posted to this course whenever necessary. If there is any other important information, I will send it to your email address that is provided to me. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email account works properly in order to receive email.

Instructor Evaluations: You will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation at the midpoint and toward the end of the semester.

Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change without notice.

*** If you encounter problems in meeting any of these requirements, do not hesitate to contact me.**

The typical class structure will include:

- Readings
- PowerPoint Slides
- Class discussions
- Short videos
- Assignments

Submission of Assignments:

Unless otherwise specified, written assignments should be typed, double-spaced and in APA format per the 7th edition of the manual. All assignments should be submitted via CANVAS.

Formatting Documents: All written assignments are to only be submitted in a Microsoft Word Document Only. Do not submit any assignments as a Google Document or PDF.

If you need assistance with APA: Please visit Purdue Owl link is below:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_for_mat.html

For instructors who wish to PROHIBIT the usage of ChatGPT, Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for my fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the University’s academic regulations. You may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software. Using these tools without my permission puts your academic integrity at risk.

GroupMe and other group messaging platforms (like Whatsapp) are meant to be used for simple class discussions. If a student wishes to create a GroupMe or utilize another messaging platform concerning this class, they are required to post the link publicly (via the Discussion tab) so that all students and the TA have the opportunity to join. If I learn that a class GroupMe or other group

messaging platforms were created without my knowledge, I will assume it was made with the intent to share answers.

Email Etiquette:

You are expected to write as you would a professional correspondence. This includes composing emails that are grammatically correct with good sentence structure. If you email me as if we are on a social networking site, **you will not receive a response until you correct the errors.** This is an academic environment and I expect only the best. Furthermore, out of respect, please refer to me as: professor, Dr.C or Dr. Sawyerr). If an email is sent referring to me by my first name, you will not receive a response. Email communication should be courteous and respectful in manner and tone. If your emails to me do not conform to the guidelines stated, I will ask you to revise your correspondence before I provide an answer. Do not send emails that are curt or demanding! Lastly, do not expect an immediate response via email (normally, a response will be sent within two business days. If your email question is sent at the last minute, it may not be possible to send you a response before an assignment is due or a test is given.

I do not respond to emails on the weekends.

FYI:

If you have an emergency, problem, or any other situation that may have an impact on your successful completion of the course, please notify me in a timely manner! If you need help, do not wait until it is too late to be helped!

An emergency on your part is not an EMERGENCY on MINE.

Keep in mind, if you tell me BEFORE hand, it is a REASON. If you tell me after, it is an EXCUSE!

Expectations:

It is your responsibility to obtain a username and password, to enter the online classroom on the first day, to read the directions on the homepage, and to successfully navigate through the course this includes but not limited to:

- a. reading the syllabus
- b. reading and keeping up with the changes on the course homepage
- c. reading and responding to instructor emails
- d. keeping up with exam and assignment dates
- e. There will be a drop box for all assignments to be submitted. You are to submit your Microsoft word document as an attachment only. If you type the assignment into the comment box, you will receive a zero. If I cannot open the document, you will receive a zero. It is in your best interest to save your document in RTF to avoid any mishaps with me not being able to open your assignment!

In our efforts to prepare students for a changing world, students may be expected to utilize computer technology while enrolled in classes, certificate, and/or degree programs within Prairie View A & M.

The specific requirements are listed below but not limited to:

*Pop Quizzes & Exams

*Word Document Submissions

*Video Animations and Clips Prior to Lectures

To determine that you have written your own work your originality report should be **80% your own work and 20%** citations, references, and other sources you will be using. If the work you submit does not fit the percentage, points will be deducted from the assignment.

Please also note, all assignments are automatically submitted through **turnitin.com** when you submit your work into Canvas.

Please note all submissions of work submitted must be “original” content only. This means that you are not to submit work that has been previously submitted to or from another class.

If it is determined that you have plagiarized. A grade of zero will be given for that assignment.

Self-plagiarism is not allowed and will not be tolerated.

What is self-plagiarism:

Self-plagiarism is defined as a type of plagiarism in which the writer republishes a work in its entirety or reuses portions of a previously written text while authoring a new work. Writers often maintain that because they are the authors, they can use the work again as they wish; they can't really plagiarize themselves because they are not taking any words or ideas from someone else. But while the discussion continues whether self-plagiarism is possible, the ethical issue of self-plagiarism is significant, especially because self-plagiarism can infringe upon a publisher's copyright. Traditional definitions of plagiarism do not account for self-plagiarism, so writers may be unaware of the ethics and laws involved in reusing or repurposing texts.

The American Psychological Association (2010) explains how plagiarism differs from self-plagiarism: "Whereas plagiarism refers to the practice of claiming credit for the words, ideas, and concepts of others, self-plagiarism refers to the practice of presenting one's own previously published work as though it were new" (pg. 170).

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE WRITTEN IN “APA” FORMAT 7th edition.

All written assignments must be put in the appropriate drop boxes indicated for each assignment title.

It is your responsibility to ensure you understand the APA Format and ask any questions you may have.

Please note all instructions for assignments will be under the specific **assignment tab for each specific assignment within Canvas**

Students, please read the guidelines for writing assignments

All papers must follow the following format in APA 7th edition

- a. Your title page & make sure you have a page number in the top right on every page
- b. Your written content

- c. Your reference page
- d. Grammatically correct, if they are not, you will receive a grade of ZERO! What exactly does this mean? You should capitalize, when necessary, use the correct punctuation, spacing between sentences, you should not have misspelled words (this typically happens when you wait until the last minute to complete an assignment, and you should recognize that you are not texting, but striving to produce a quality written paper. Be sure your assignment is double-spaced.
- e. Written in the proper APA format.
- f. When it comes to your content of writing, make sure it is succinct and is in alignment with what is required.
- g. Your analysis should reflect your understanding of the assignment. If I cannot understand your writing, you will receive a grade of ZERO!
- h. Do not copy your answers directly from the textbook or other sources!
- i. You will receive a ZERO for assignments that are plagiarized. It is very possible that you could fail this course, per the discretion of the professor. Please see the academic policy on the syllabus.
- j. If your assignment is not in Times Roman/Courier New, written in 12-point font, double spaced APA Format, paragraph form, your assignment will receive deductions.
- k. If you need assistance with the APA format, ask the librarian or your professor

Movie Disclaimer:

Movies will be shown this semester. These movies are at least adjacently relevant to the course material covered in class. Therefore, students are expected to be to view the movie, as they are responsible for the broad concepts covered in the movie. The movie(s) shown/required may be rated R and contain adult language and other R-rated elements.

Should the nature of these films be an issue in your viewing of the movie, it is your responsibility to inform me of these concerns, to which I will address on a case-by-case basis

Internet:

1. BACK UP WORK

A.I encourage each student to have a backup plan in case of emergency circumstances arise while they are enrolled in this course (e.g., computer crash, natural disaster, medical emergency, etc).

B.I recommend the following: save your work and maintain backups that are easily accessible to you. You have backup copies when your primary computer crashes to minimize losses.

C You can save copies of your work to a flash drive or cloud storage (e.g., PVAMU – H-Drive, Dropbox, Google Drive, Microsoft One Drive, etc.).

ACCESS TO COMPUTERS

1. 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 and locate alternate computers or devices you can use to complete the necessary work in this course. Examples: could be making a trip to campus computer lab, visiting your local library, or relying on someone you trust to help you as needed.

2. 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 become 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.

SCREEN IMAGES

Screen images of assignments will not be accepted at all for any reason.

Dr. Sawyerr's Guidelines and Policies

This course relies on cooperative real-world learning that encompasses experiences, techniques and strategies that immerse students in thinking about “taken – for – granted” things they are used to seeing or doing on a regular basis. During the semester, students will engage in lots of reading, discussion, problem – solving, writing and group activities/and or projects! It is my greatest expectation that, after taking this course, students become familiar with a new way of learning at the world – with an open, critical – thinking, enriched by a psychological perspective. That will help the students utilize newly – found knowledge and newly – acquired techniques to understanding/managing everyday lives. If you are experiencing academic, family, or personal problems that have the potential to affect your attendance or academic performance please let Dr. Sawyerr know as soon as possible! I cannot assist you or help you so please do not hesitate to let me know if you have questions or concerns throughout the semester. I will make every REASONABLE effort to help you be successful in this course.

Attendance, Class Participate, Homework & Quiz/Exam Policies

This is a F2F class so please make sure that you are familiar with Canvas, attend class, complete all assignments, quizzes, required exams, and most importantly you participate and ask questions in class.

Attendance

Please also keep in mind that it is your responsibility as a student to drop yourself from the class for any reason. As I will NOT drop you from the course.

You are required to sign in every time class is held. You have a 15 minute to sign in on the roster. After the 15-minute window. The notebook will put away and you will not be able to sign in for the day.

MAKE UP EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

No make - up quizzes/exams will be given for any reason, unless discussed ahead of time and approved by the professor in writing. If a make-up exam/quiz is allowed it “will be in an alternate format than the original exam given.

All quizzes will be taken in class Only. All quizzes will be based off content directly from the textbook and lecture. For the quizzes ONLY you may use your “HANDWRITTEN” notes only. Which will be approved by the professor prior to the beginning of class. If you are late for quiz, you can take the quiz. However, extra time will not be allotted nor given.

All exams will be F2F. You will need a scantron and a #2 pencil. It is your responsibility to have the items you need for the exam. You cannot write on the exam. If you are late, you can still take the exam, but you will not be allotted extra time. All smart phones, cellphones, electronics, and smart watches must be turned off during the exam.

Extra Credit

Please do not ask the professor for extra credit at any time. If an opportunity arises, the professor will communicate this information via email or in person to the entire class.

Do not email the professor at the end of the semester asking to “curve or bump” your final grade. All grades will be posted in Canvas and final grades will be posted in Panther Tracks.

Concerns regarding the class

If you have concerns regarding the class, make sure the following protocol is followed.

Make an appointment with the professor to discuss your concern first to determine if an amicable solution can be found.

Assignment Submissions to Canvas

All assignments must be submitted in Microsoft Word/PDF ONLY. Any other submission files will not be accepted nor graded.

Time submission for assignments:

Students all assignment are due by 11:58 p.m. on the assigned day!

No Exceptions or late assignments will be allowed/accepted for any reason, without prior approval from the instructor 72 hours in advance. Please always plan and submit your assignment on time. If your assignment is submitted at 11:59 p.m. it is considered late and will not be accepted.

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.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Chapter/Topic	
		Although flexible, Tuesday classes will focus on PPT presentations and Thursday classes will focus on discussion of each chapter (come prepared with discussion questions) and assignments	
Week 1		Ch. 1: Introduction to African American Psychology and Positive Psychology	
Week 2		Ch. 2: Research and Theory in African American Psychology	
Week 3		Ch. 3: History of Racism and Oppression in the United States	
Week 4		Ch. 4: Family Relationships among African Americans	
Week 5		Ch. 5: Friendships and Romantic Relationships among African Americans	
Week 6		Ch. 6: Neighborhoods and Communities among African Americans	
Week 7		Ch. 7: Ethnic–Racial Socialization and Ethnic–Racial Identity in African Americans	
Week 8		Ch. 8: Religion and Spirituality in African Americans	
Week 9		Spring Break	
Week 10		Ch. 9: Education, Work, and Achievement in African Americans	
Week 11		Ch. 10: The Psychology of Hip-Hop	
Week 12		Ch. 11: Mental Health of African Americans	
Week 13		Ch. 12: Physical Health of African Americans	
Week 14		Ch. 13: African American Prosocial Behavior and Activism	
Week 15		Ch. 14: The Future of African Americans	
Week 16			
Final Exam Week		Final Exam	

Schedule is subject to change and addendums added as needed.

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.

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 conditions, 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.

Non-Discrimination Statement

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

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

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

Student Academic Appeals Process

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

Technical Considerations

Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:

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

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

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

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Acrobat PDF Reader
- Windows or Mac OS
- Video conferencing software

Netiquette (online etiquette)

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be

respectful and courteous to others on discussion boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. Do not use ALL CAPS for communicating to others AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING. Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you." Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons. Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post, and the message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.

Video Conferencing Etiquette

When using Zoom, WebEx, or other video conferencing tools, confirm the visible area is tidy, clear of background clutter, inappropriate or offensive posters, and other distractions. Ensure you dress appropriately and avoid using high traffic or noisy areas. Stay muted when you are not speaking and avoid eating/drinking during the session. Before the class session begins, test audio, video, and lighting to alleviate technology issues.

Technical Support

Students should go to <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services at 936-261-3283 or email ciits@pvamu.edu.

Communication Expectations and Standards

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can occur in a seminar fashion. The use of the discussion board will accomplish this. The instructor will determine the exact use of discussion boards.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application such as Word and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, copy and paste to the discussion board.

COVID-19 Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, PVAMU has adopted policies and practices to limit virus transmission.

- **Self-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.) are 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. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities. Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence. To receive an excused absence, students must provide appropriate documentation to the Office for Student Conduct, studentconduct@pvamu.edu.

Offense: Plagiarism and Multiple Submissions

1. Failing to credit sources used in a work or product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own.
2. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources.
3. Attempting to receive credit in one or more classes for the same paper or project without written approval of instructors involved.

Offense: Collusion

Completing and submitting individual assignments or work with a partner or

Offense: Conspiracy

1. Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of scholastic dishonesty.
1. group without expressed permission.

Offense: Acquiring Information

1. Acquiring answers for an assigned work or examination from unauthorized source [including but not limited to from another student present, use of phone, calculator, smartwatch, any form of communication, CHEG.com].
2. Working with another person or persons on an assignment or examination when not specifically permitted by the instructor.
3. Copying the work of other students during an examination.
4. Plagiarism of any kind.

Code of student conduct link below:

<https://www.pvamu.edu/sa/wp-content/uploads/sites/77/PVAMU-Code-of-Student-Conduct.pdf>

DR. SAWYERR HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES AS NEEDED (to the syllabus and classroom environment) AT ANYTIME.

