# CHEG 3153: Introduction to Biotechnology
## Spring 2021 Syllabus

### General Course Information Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Item</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Gyamerah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section # and CRN:</td>
<td>Y01 CRN 29416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Location:</td>
<td>C.L. Wilson 200A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Phone:</td>
<td>936-261-9408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:migyamerah@pvamu.edu">migyamerah@pvamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours:</td>
<td>MWF 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. &amp; 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.; F 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Instruction:</td>
<td>Hybrid/Blended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Location:</td>
<td>New Electrical Engr. Bldg. 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Days &amp; Times:</td>
<td>TR: 10:10 am – 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Catalog Description:
(3-0) Credit 3 semester hours. This course introduces students of chemical engineering, biological sciences, and chemistry to biological concepts and nano-scale considerations in engineering applications. It provides training for effective communication, hands-on skills, and analytical tools needed to pursue careers in biological/biochemical, and biopharmaceutical process industries. Ties to relevant current research will be explored.

### Prerequisites:
(CHEM 1043 or CHEM 11034 and CHEM 2033)

### Co-requisites:
None

### Required Text(s):
None

### Recommended Text(s):

### Student Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcome Alignment</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Be able to demonstrate an understanding the principles of bioprocess engineering, and for the biological sciences and chemistry student demonstrate an awareness of engineering concepts and ways of thinking.</td>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Be able to communicate on a professional level with process engineers and know the type of expertise they can offer.</td>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of the engineering approach to process analysis and carry out routine calculations and checks on processes, in the case of the biological sciences or chemistry major.</td>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Be able to critically evaluate new bioprocessing proposals and work at the interface of biology and engineering science</td>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Be able to characterize growth and production behavior of cells whether genetically engineered or not as a function of the culture environment</td>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of process development from shake-flask through bench-scale and the criteria for pilot-scale work</td>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Be able to demonstrate thorough knowledge of FDA regulations; cGMP and documentation under validation, and NIH Biohazard containment guidelines</td>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHEG PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME:

This course has been designed to ensure that students acquire a solid grounding in their ability to apply knowledge of chemistry and biology to biological systems. The student learning outcome to be used to evaluate the course is a modification of the ABET student learning outcome 1: An ability to identify, formulate and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science and mathematics. The modified ABET student learning outcome designated as D1 in the CHEG Department will be used to evaluate the competence of students in their ability to identify, formulate, and solve fundamental engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics.

The three performance criteria used to assess the student learning outcome D1 are:

1. **Identify, formulate and solve fundamental problems of biotechnology.** Given a problem in applied biology, the student is able to:
   - applying basic knowledge and fundamental concepts of cell and molecular biology to the practical application in engineering processes,

**Major Course Requirements**

**Method of Determining Final Course Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Homework Assignments (2)</td>
<td>5 points each</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Midterm</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Exams (2)</td>
<td>20 points each</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Final Exam</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Criteria and Conversion:**

A = 100 – 90pts
B = 89 – 80pts
C = 70 – 79pts
D = 60 – 69pts
F = 59pts or below

A signifies that the student has mastered the subject matter and understands all concepts covered.
B signifies that the student has a good understanding of the subject matter with few exceptions.
C signifies that the student has an adequate understanding of the material and can follow most concepts.
D signifies that the student does not understand important class concepts needed to be successful in future courses.
F signifies that the student has missed significant assignments or does not understand several concepts.
### Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Title or Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Homework Assignments</td>
<td>The assignments assess the students ability to (i) List differences between prokaryotes and eukaryotes, and place organisms under either prokaryotes or eucaryotes, and (ii) Describe the steps required to develop a complete industrial bioprocess for the production of a recombinant-DNA-derived biopharmaceutical.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Midterm Exam</td>
<td>The midterm exam will cover topics taught during the first half of the semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Exams</td>
<td>Exam 1 will cover DNA and RNA, the genetic code and protein synthesis. Exam 2 will cover medium design, plasmids, monoclonal antibodies, restriction enzymes and polymerase chain reaction (PCR).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Final Exam</td>
<td>This is a comprehensive exam that covers all materials covered during the semester.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

This course comprises of 39 hours (81.25%) of online teaching and 9 hours (18.75%) of face-to-face instruction. Depending on the medical COVID-19 situation, students can opt out of the face-to-face learning activities and request to have them replaced by online equivalents. In order to do so, they must communicate their decision at least a week in advance and sign a letter that will be available in ecourses. The instructor will keep a record of the students’ decisions.

**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 by your department, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

**Tests & Testing Policy**

All tests are closed book and closed notes. Make-up exams are only available for students with university excused absences. In most cases, the make-up exam is given BEFORE the student misses the exam. No electronic devices will be allowed including iPads and eReaders. No graphing or programmable calculators are allowed for any test or quiz. Students must purchase a small scientific calculator to use on exams. A cell phone cannot be used as a replacement for a calculator on an exam. Doing so will result in a zero. No bathroom breaks are allowed during a test. If a student leaves the room during this time, their exam/quiz will be collected and considered finished by the student. Any act of cheating will result in a grade of zero for that student, and the student will be referred to the department head. Such meetings must take place within a week of the violation.

**Homework Policy & Guidelines**

This course involves the usage of computer software. **Students must submit these assignments BEFORE the beginning of class.** If a student chooses to disobey the university’s honor code and copy the solution manual instead of submitting the student’s own independent work, the student will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and will be referred to the department head. Such meetings must take place within a week of the infraction. **All homework assignments must be submitted with the cover sheet provided.** Write only on the front of the paper and number your pages. Staple assignment if it is more than one page. Write your name, date, and assignment number on cover sheet. Homework is due at the beginning of the class period. **Late homework assignments will NOT be accepted!**

**Class Activities And Participation**

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and are expected to participate in classroom discussions. Class lab activities are mandatory for this course. **There are zero opportunities to makeup a class activity.** Students must submit these assignments during a given time frame.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity (Online)</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity (Face-to-Face [F2F])</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1: January 19 &amp; 21, 2021</td>
<td>Course Introduction Introduction to Biotechnology</td>
<td>• Read the syllabus posted on eCourse, Chapter 1 (Shuler and Kargi) and Handout • Review of Syllabus; Course Overview: Bioprocess development - An interdisciplinary challenge • Chapter 1 (Shuler and Kargi)</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 19, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2: January 26 &amp; January 28, 2021</td>
<td>Microbiology: The Place of Micro-Organisms in Nature and Microbial Diversity; Pure culture and aseptic technique</td>
<td>• Reading: Chapters 2 (Shuler and Kargi) and posted Lecture notes on ecourse • Homework 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 26, 2020 February 2, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3: February 2 &amp; February 4, 2021</td>
<td>Microbiology and Biochemistry: Elements of life, elemental composition of microbial cells</td>
<td>• Read Chapters 2 (Shuler and Kargi) and posted Lecture notes on ecourse • Chapters 2 (Shuler and Kargi)</td>
<td></td>
<td>February 2, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4: February 9 &amp; February 11, 2021</td>
<td>Microbiology and Biochemistry: Microbial nutrition and microbial growth</td>
<td>• Read chapter 2 (Shuler and Kargi) and Lecture notes posted on ecourse • Chapter 2 (Shuler &amp; Kargi)</td>
<td></td>
<td>February 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 5: February 16 &amp; February 18, 2021</td>
<td>Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology: Nucleic acids, DNA and the RNAs</td>
<td>• Read Chapters 2 and 4 (Shuler and Kargi) and Lecture notes posted on ecourse • Chapters 2 and 4 (Shuler and Kargi)</td>
<td></td>
<td>February 16, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 6: February 23 &amp; February 25, 2021</td>
<td>Molecular Biology: Genes and gene expression, Genetic systems, and studying genes, and Genetic Engineering</td>
<td>• Read chapters 2 &amp; 8 (Shuler &amp; Kargi) and posted Lecture notes on ecourse • Chapters 2 and 8 (Shuler and Kargi) • Homework 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>February 23, 2021 March 4, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 7:</td>
<td>Molecular Biology-cont’d: Genetic systems, Genetic analysis and studying genes, and Genetic Engineering</td>
<td>Read chapters 2 &amp; 8 (Shuler &amp; Kargi) and posted Lecture notes on ecourse</td>
<td>March 2, 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2F Meeting on March 4, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 8:</th>
<th>Molecular Biology-cont’d: Genetic analysis and Genetic Engineering</th>
<th>Read chapters 2 &amp; 8 (Shuler &amp; Kargi) and posted Lecture notes on ecourse</th>
<th>Exam 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 9 &amp; March 11, 2021</td>
<td>F2F Meeting on March 11, 2021</td>
<td>Chapters 2 and 8 (Shuler and Kargi)</td>
<td>March 11, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Module 9:          | Molecular Biology- cont'd: Genetic analysis and Genetic Engineering | • Read chapters 2 & 8 (Shuler & Kargi) and posted Lecture notes on ecourse  
|                   |                                                               | • Chapters 2 and 8 (Shuler and Kargi) |
|                   |                                                               | March 16, 2021 |
| Module 10:        | Biochemistry- cont'd: Proteins and protein synthesis            | • Read Chapters 2 & 4 (Shuler & Kargi) and posted Lecture notes on ecourse  
|                   |                                                               | • Chapters 2 & 4 (Shuler & Kargi) |
|                   |                                                               | Midterm Exam March 23, 2021 |
| Module 11:        | Biochemistry- cont'd: Catabolic and anabolic pathways           | • Read Chapters 2 & 5 (Shuler & Kargi) and posted lecture on ecourse  
|                   |                                                               | • Chapters 2 & 5 (Shuler & Kargi) |
|                   |                                                               | March 30, 2021 |
| Module 12:        | Fermentation medium design: The use of elemental composition of microbial cells & Material Balances | • Read Chapters 2 & 7 (Shuler and Kargi), and posted lecture notes on ecourse  
|                   |                                                               | • Chapters 2 & 7 (Schuler & Kargi) |
|                   |                                                               | April 6, 2021 |
| Module 13:        | Shake-flask and bench-scale fermentations: Growth and production behavior of cells | • Read Chapter 14 (Shuler and Kargi) and posted lecture notes on ecourse  
|                   |                                                               | • Chapter 14 (Shuler & Kargi) |
|                   |                                                               | April 13, 2021 |
| Module 14:        | Regulatory Compliance: Regulators and their Guidelines, U.S. Food and drug Administration (FDA’s) Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMPs), | • Read chapter 1 (Schuler & Kargi) and handout posted on ecourse  
|                   |                                                               | • Chapter 1 (Shuler and Kargi) |
|                   |                                                               | Exam 2 |
|                   |                                                               | April 22, 2021 |
Module 15:
April 27 & April 29, 2021
- Regulatory Compliance: Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 (CFR 21), and Validation and cGMPs
- Read chapter 1 (Schuler & Kargi) and handout posted on ecourse
- Chapter 1 (Shuler and Kargi)

Module 16:
May 4 & May 6, 2021
- Review all chapters
- Course Review
- Final Exam

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 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** [NOTE: Delete this section when the COVID-19 pandemic is over]

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.

• **COVID-19 Guidelines for Student Conduct Adjudication** - The mandatory COVID-19 Training/Certification taken by all students serves as the 1st Warning for violation of COVID-19 Guidelines.
  - 1st incident: upon review of Incident Report and finding of responsibility — Conduct Probation
  - 2nd incident: upon review of Incident Report and finding of responsibility — Suspension
  - Consult the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Planner or [Student Conduct website](mailto:studentconduct@pvamu.edu) for additional information on Conduct Probation and Suspension.

• **Personal Illness and Quarantine** - Students required to quarantine must 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](mailto:studentconduct@pvamu.edu).