OK, pdftotext has changed!

There is an on-line version that accepts up to 20 documents

http://pdftotext.com/

The pdftotext tool itself can be found in the "Download the XPDF tools" section on this page:

https://www.xpdfreader.com/download.html

Download the zip file and unzip it to a folder.

Open the xpdf folder and find the correct pdftotext.exe file

Copy it and place it somewhere (e.g. in your POLS559 folder on your desktop). You will need to access it later from the command line.

For Windows:

Open the command line (press the windows button and R at the same time)

Change (cd) to the folder where pdftotext.exe is located: e.g 'cd C:\Users\John.DESKTOP-ES1A8AS\Desktop\POLS559

Type pdftotext and the name of the pdf file: pdftotext mypaper.pdf   (assuming mypaper.pdf is in the same folder; ifnot you will need to specify the correct path)

Result (mypaper.txt) will be outputted to the same folder

If you wanted to write a python script to loop through a bunch of files, it also
needs to work through the command line and would look something like this. The main
thing is that you need to tell pdftotext where to find the files to be converted

import os

%cd C:\Users\John.DESKTOP-ES1A8AS\Desktop\POLS559\xpdf\bin64 #navigate to the
directory where the .exe file is (and in this example the Bill.pdf file as well)

```
os.system('pdftotext Bill.pdf') #this command uses the command line from within a
python script
```

Pdftotext options are described here: https://www.xpdfreader.com/pdftotext-man.html

Xpdf also offer other conversion options: https://www.xpdfreader.com/support.html