Introductory Biology I

BIO 311C: Introductory Biology I
TCCN: BIOL 1306
Course Syllabus: 2024-2025

UT Austin Faculty Lead	OnRamps Course Staff	
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Molecular and cellular biology is the focus of Introductory Biology I. The course revolves around three big ideas of biology. The first big idea is the study of the structure and function of biomolecules. The second big idea is the flow of energy through living systems via photosynthesis and cellular respiration. The course finishes with the third big idea, an investigation into how genetic information is expressed and transmitted both within and between cells.

While the content of the class is the study of introductory molecular biology, thinking like a scientist is the emphasis of this course. How do scientists think? They acquire knowledge through discovery. They critically apply the knowledge to form hypotheses and reach conclusions. Scientists communicate their conclusions to others and use critical feedback to improve their scientific thinking. Scientific thinking is a skill that grows with practice and becomes stronger with use.

In this year-long class, students will learn how to apply critical thinking and quantitative skills to real world scenarios. Students will have the opportunity to develop their scientific thinking skills though Peer Instruction and active learning activities. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of verbal, written and graphical communication skills. This course fulfills the University of Texas at Austin core curriculum requirement for Natural Science & Technology, Part I (Texas core code 030).

Course Pre-requisites
- TEKS-based High School Biology
- TEKS-based High School Chemistry
- Concurrent enrollment in Lab for Introductory Biology I (BIO 106M)

Course Learning Outcomes
- Structure Relates to Function
- Energy is Transformed in Living Systems
- Genetic Information is Expressed and Transmitted
- Critical Thinking

Course Format and Procedures

The OnRamps approach to teaching biology integrates a variety of learning experiences to help students achieve the learning outcomes stated above. This course uses mainly two pedagogies: Flipped Classroom and Peer Instruction. The High School Instructor of Record employs these pedagogies to increase student engagement and encourage student understanding of biology concepts.

All of the course materials are posted in Canvas and are organized chronologically by the learning activities that will help students to prepare for the exams. Students are expected to prepare for class by completing the learning modules made up of readings, videos, and multiple-choice questions. During class, the High School Instructor of Record facilitates learning activities that include hands-on activities, collaborative group work, direct instruction, and Peer Instruction.

Learning modules and quizzes occur outside of class and are part of the college grade. Learning modules will be completed prior to the first day of instruction on a subunit. Quizzes will be open for three school nights and closed after the last day of class instruction on a subunit, except for subunits that include an exam. Both learning modules and quizzes can be completed collaboratively and with additional resources.

An exam will come at the end of every unit, starting with Unit 1. Exams are to be proctored in class and completed without collaboration and without the use of additional resources.

University Course Staff

Title	Description
UT Austin Faculty Lead	A UT Austin faculty member who designs and oversees delivery of the OnRamps college distance course and ensures its alignment to the course as it is delivered at the residential university campus.

Title	Description
OnRamps Course Staff	A UT Austin staff member and designee of the UT Austin Faculty Lead who serves as a primary subject-matter expert in the academic discipline of the OnRamps course and provides yearlong support to high school Instructors to ensure the course is delivered with fidelity. As a designee of the UT Austin Faculty Lead, Course Staff assist with academic integrity investigations, send official University communication to students, and ensure students have access to all course resources and policies.
UT Austin Instructor of Record	The UT Austin Instructor of Record grades or oversees grading of college course work and determines student final grades and credit award. The UT Austin Instructor of Record also investigates and resolves suspected incidents of academic integrity violations in the distance college course. The UT Austin Instructor of Record meets departmental and university criteria prior to appointment. The UT Austin Faculty Lead, Course Staff, or other UT Austin-appointed staff member may also serve as the UT Austin Instructor of Record.

Course Outline

Unit & Topic
Unit 0: Foundational Introductory Concepts
Unit 1: Basic Chemistry and Water
Unit 2: Biomolecules
Unit 3: Biological Membranes and Cell Structure
Unit 4: Introduction to Enzymes
Unit 5: Flow of Energy
Unit 6: Protein Synthesis
Unit 7: Cell Cycle
Unit 8: Basic Genetics

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Technology Access and Expectations

Accessing technology is part of your OnRamps course requirements. You may only access OnRamps course technology using your own UT EID and password or other designated login credentials. You are forbidden from substituting for another person or permitting another person to use your login credentials to substitute for yourself to take a class, a test, or any class-related assignment.

Technology System	Description and Expectations
UT EID **URL:** **https://onramps.utexas.edu/eid**	• You must use your UT EID and password, which is a unique account with the University of Texas at Austin, to register for OnRamps courses and access coursework. • You must create a strong UT EID password in order to ensure uninterrupted technology access. The guidelines for creating a strong password are available [here](https://onramps.utexas.edu/eid). • Do **not** share your UT EID password with anyone. Sharing your password could allow unauthorized access to your educational information and may result in account suspension or an academic integrity investigation. • **Do not create multiple UT EIDs.** If you have issues accessing your course after registration, contact OnRamps Support.
Canvas Learning Management System **URL:** **https://onramps.instructure.com**	• OnRamps provides an online learning environment in Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) for all students in this class. • You will have access to two (2) Canvas courses for the purpose of the dual-enrollment experience: the OnRamps high school course and the OnRamps college course. • You may only access Canvas using your own UT EID and password. • You are expected to access Canvas daily for learning modules, quizzes, and exams. You will get many of your assignments and turn in your college work in Canvas. • You are responsible for reading course information, including assignment instructions and due dates, that is posted in Canvas.

Technology System	Description and Expectations
	- You are responsible for frequently checking your Canvas Inbox and viewing course announcements. Failure to read announcements or failure to check your Inbox is not an acceptable reason for missed communication or missed deadlines.
OnRamps Portal **URL:** **https://onramps.utexas.edu/portal**	- You will access the OnRamps Portal to manage your contact information and current OnRamps distance college course enrollment(s), including accepting or declining college credit, if earned. You may also view prior enrollment and credit information in the OnRamps Portal. - You may only access the OnRamps Portal using your own UT EID and password. - You must use the OnRamps Portal to request accommodations for your distance college course in order for eligible IDEA, 504, or ADA accommodations to be approved and applied. You may view requested accommodations, approval status, and update accommodations at any time in the OnRamps Portal.
Email Use a personal email address that you check regularly and will have access to after you graduate high school.	- Email is an official means of communication at UT Austin. OnRamps uses the email address you provide in the OnRamps Portal to communicate enrollment and credit information to you. - It is your responsibility to keep your email address updated in the OnRamps Portal at all times. - You are expected to check email frequently in order to stay current with OnRamps-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. - Updating your email address in the OnRamps Portal automatically updates your email address in Canvas. Communication about your grades and course experience will be sent to you via Canvas Inbox, which may be forwarded to your email address based on your Notification settings in Canvas.

Technology System	Description and Expectations
	• Failure to check email or Canvas Inbox is not an acceptable reason for missed communication or missed deadlines.

Technology Support
- Within your college course in Canvas, contact OnRamps Support by using the link in the lefthand navigation.
- OnRamps Support is available at 512-265-2515 from 8am – 5pm CT Monday – Friday. OnRamps Support is closed on University holidays.

How to Succeed in this Course
- **Complete OnRamps Orientation to prepare for college expectations.**
- Take careful notes while completing your learning modules, as the information presented will be critical to all other activities and assignments in the subunit.
- Pay close attention to the guidelines for collaboration and resource use on each assignment.
- Manage your time carefully. Many assignments in this course are to be completed outside of class, and assignments can have overlapping due dates. Budget plenty of time outside of class to complete these assignments.
- Engage with in-class activities. Work with your group members and contribute to discussions during collaborative activities such as Peer Instruction.
- Always ask for help if you are struggling to understand a concept. Your High School Instructor is a valuable resource. You can also reach out to OnRamps Support to ask Course Staff content-related questions.

Assignments & Grading
The following assignments and assessments contribute to your college grade. Detailed instructions and due dates for assignments are posted in your Canvas college course.

Assessment	Description	Frequency	Assignment Type	% Course Grade
Unit Exams	Comprehensive exams that assess mastery of each unit.	3 per semester	Exam	45%
Semester Exams	Cumulative exams that assess student mastery of each semester's big ideas.	One per semester	Exam	25%
Quizzes	Weekly assessments covering content from the past week.	One per week	Quiz	15%

Assessment	Description	Frequency	Assignment Type	% Course Grade
Learning Modules	Learning modules due at the beginning of each subunit.	One per week	Submission	14%
OnRamps Orientation Module	OnRamps overview, academic integrity policy, and college learning strategies.	Once per year	Orientation	1%
Total				100%

- Learning Modules
  - o Learning modules can be submitted twice, and the highest grade is recorded.
  - o Learning Modules are designed to be completed outside of class, and can be completed in collaboration with classmates.
  - o Please carefully read the instructions shown at the top of the assignment for more details.
- Quizzes
  - o Quizzes are designed to be completed outside of class. Collaboration is encouraged, and the use of additional resources is allowed.
  - o Please carefully read the instructions shown at the top of the assignment for more details.
- Unit Exams and Semester Exams
  - o Unit 0 and Unit 1 Exams are combined and counted as a single Unit Exam in the College Grade.
  - o At the end of each semester, students will take a comprehensive Semester Exam.
  - o All exams are to be taken in class, proctored by an Instructor, without collaboration, and without the use of additional resources.
  - o Please carefully read the instructions shown at the top of the assignment for more details.
- Missing Work
  - o UT assignments must be submitted by the due date to receive credit. If you are unable to complete a college assignment on time, please reach out to your High School Instructor to request that late work be accepted. Late work will only be accepted due to extenuating circumstances, such as a medical or family emergency.
  - o Students with excused and unplanned absences, including medical and family emergencies, must make up all assignments within seven calendar days after returning to school. When possible, students missing assignments due to approved appointments or extracurricular activities should make arrangements to reschedule the assignment with the High School Instructor of Record prior to the absence.
  - o Any requests to submit late quizzes or learning modules must be submitted and approved prior to completing the exam for the corresponding unit.

o If you encounter technical issues, you have 24 hours to notify your High School Instructor and reach out through OnRamps Support. If an extension is granted, you will have two days to submit responses.

College Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	92.50 – 100.00
A-	89.50 – 92.49
B+	86.50 – 89.49
B	82.50 – 86.49
B-	79.50 – 82.49
C+	75.50 – 79.49
C	68.50 – 75.49
C-	64.50 – 68.49
D+	61.50 – 64.49
D	54.50 – 61.49
F	0 – 54.49

- The lowest learning module grade will be dropped each semester.
- The lowest quiz grade will be dropped each semester.

COLLEGE CREDIT

This is a dual enrollment course delivered through distance education. With dual enrollment, you may earn credit for Introductory Biology I (BIO 311C) in addition to earning high school credit.

You earn college credit in this course by making a minimum grade of D (54.50) on college assignments and assessments described in the Assignments & Grading section.

College Credit Decision Period

If you earn college credit, you may accept or decline college credit earned during the five-day college credit decision period, which will occur during a Monday – Friday window after you receive your final college grade. You will receive an email notification from OnRamps when your credit decision period begins, a reminder email during the credit decision period, and an email when the credit decision period ends.

If you do not make a decision during the credit decision period, OnRamps will determine course credit as follows:

- **C- or above.** You earned credit and *will* be issued a UT Austin transcript unless you decline credit in the OnRamps Portal.
- **D+, D, or D-.** You earned credit but *will not* be issued a UT Austin transcript unless you accept credit in the OnRamps Portal.

If you do not earn credit in the college course, you will not make a credit decision and you will not be issued a UT Austin transcript.

Credit Transferability & College Transcript

OnRamps credits earned for a letter grade of C- or above that fulfill UT Austin core curriculum are required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to transfer to any other public college or university in Texas. Most OnRamps courses also have a Texas Common Course Number (TCCN), which facilitates transfer to other colleges in Texas. Refer to page 1 of this syllabus for core curriculum and TCCN information for this course.

Each university has its own policies about transfer credit, such as whether transfer credit is factored into your college Grade Point Average (GPA), contributes to your academic standing, or how the credit applies to specific degree plans. Therefore, you should research credit transfer policies at any college or university you may attend to ensure you are making an informed decision that aligns to your academic plans. OnRamps credit is UT Austin credit and thus factors into your cumulative GPA and academic standing at UT Austin.

When you accept college credit, you will have undergraduate credit hours reflected on a UT Austin transcript. You may request an official UT Austin transcript through the UT Austin Office of the Registrar. You will receive an email notification from OnRamps when your transcript is available with instructions for ordering a transcript.

POLICY INFORMATION

Students with Disabilities

If you receive high-school accommodations related to a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you may also receive certain accommodations in your OnRamps college course. Accommodations in an OnRamps course must follow accommodations in your Individual Education Plan or 504 Individual Accommodation Plan and be allowable under the university assessment practices. Accommodations are individualized and based on need and disability.

You must use the OnRamps Portal to request accommodations for your distance college course in order for eligible IDEA, 504, or ADA accommodations to be approved and applied. You must request accommodations prior to the due date for an assignment in order to access accommodations for that assignment. You are strongly encouraged to provide information about your need for accommodations during registration at the beginning of the course or immediately following changes to your Individual Education Plan or 504.

Academic Integrity

OnRamps students are subject to the University's academic integrity policies. Academic integrity is honesty in your academic work. Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas at Austin Honor Code:

> I pledge, as a member of The University of Texas at Austin community, to do my work honestly, respectfully, and through the intentional pursuit of learning and scholarship.

The honor code affirmation includes three additional principles that elaborate on the core theme:

- I pledge to be honest about what I create and to acknowledge what I use that belongs to others.
- I pledge to value the process of learning in addition to the outcome, while celebrating and learning from mistakes.
- This code encompasses all the academic and scholarly endeavors of the University community.

Upholding the University's Honor Code means following all directions for completing each assignment and assessment. You cannot use unauthorized materials or aid to complete assignments. You cannot substitute or allow another student to substitute for you to complete an assignment, in addition to the prohibitions on academic misconduct found in The University of Texas catalog, Chapter 11, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity: https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/

To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the University's conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct

Statement on Generative Artificial Intelligence

Use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), AI-content generators (such as ChatGPT) or other unauthorized aid when completing college assignments is a form of academic misconduct. Using AI to generate ideas, outline an approach, answer questions, or solve problems may constitute a violation of academic integrity. The UT Austin Instructor of Record will make clear in the assignment directions for each assignment whether collaboration is allowed and what

types of tools may be utilized. Refer to the **Assignments and Grading** section for further details about assignment types in your course.

Communication Expectations

You must respond to messages and requests within Canvas Inbox from OnRamps staff for investigations of potential academic integrity incidents. If you fail to respond to Canvas Inbox messages about potential academic integrity incidents from OnRamps staff, you may receive an academic disciplinary action.

More information about academic integrity may be found in the OnRamps Orientation in Canvas.

Student Code of Conduct

As a participant in the UT Austin OnRamps program, you are expected to uphold a high standard of integrity and ethical behavior. This includes using UT Austin resources in an appropriate, ethical manner for the purpose of learning. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Unauthorized use of institutional technology and services
- Providing false or misleading information about an academic record
- Engaging in violent or disruptive conduct, including hazing, stalking, or behavior that impedes, interferes with, or disrupts any University teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary, public service, learning, or other authorized activity.

Failure to abide by the student code of conduct may result in an academic sanction or removal from the course. For more information about standards of behavior, refer to The University of Texas catalog, Chapter 11, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity: https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/

FERPA

All students in OnRamps are college students and subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a participant in the UT OnRamps program, it is important that you understand these rights as they apply to you.

Under FERPA, OnRamps staff may not share information regarding your college coursework or academic standing (grade point average, academic transcript, academic probation, or discipline records).

Exceptions:
- OnRamps staff will release your educational records, including college course grades and credit status, to your high school Instructor and school district administrators for legitimate educational purposes.

- If you sign a waiver stating that FERPA-protected information may be released to your parent/guardian, OnRamps staff may share the FERPA-protected information with the parent/guardian.
- If OnRamps staff share FERPA-protected information with high school staff with a legitimate educational interest, including the high school Instructor, and you are under 18 years of age, then the high school staff may share that information with your parent or guardian.
- If OnRamps staff suspect you present a significant risk of harm to self or others, they may disclose FERPA-protected information with your parent/guardian, high school Instructor, principal, or other appropriate authority to ensure your safety and/or the safety of other individuals.

For more information about FERPA, refer to The University of Texas catalog, chapter 9, Educational Records: https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/educational-records/