

# MGY311Y1 Y

## Molecular Biology

### Fall 2025 - Winter 2026 Syllabus

## Course Meetings

### MGY311Y1 Y

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Monday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	In Person: MS 4279
	Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	In Person: MS 4279
	Friday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	In Person: MS 4279

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

## Course Contacts

**Coordinator:** Richard Collins

**Email:** [rick.collins@utoronto.ca](mailto:rick.collins@utoronto.ca)

## Course Overview

This course examines the design and interpretation of experiments that have led to our current understanding of the biological roles of DNA, RNA and proteins. Intended for students considering graduate or professional work in molecular biology or a related field or wanting a deeper understanding of these topics.

The purpose of this course is to show you how science is done in the field of molecular biology. You will learn a certain amount of vocabulary and some facts, but the emphasis will be on how we come to know something, rather than just what we know. We will also discuss what we don't yet know, and how current research is attempting to answer these questions.

**Prerequisites:** BIO120H1, BIO230H1/BIO255H1, BCH242Y1 (Note: BCH210H1 may be acceptable with permission of instructor)

**Corequisites:** None

**Exclusions:** BCH311H1, CSB349H1, [JBC372H5](#)(UTM), PSL350H1

**Recommended Preparation:** None

**Credit Value:** 1

## Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Mini term test	10%		2025-09-29
Term test 1	10%	Test will start at 8:30 am. Location: TBA	2025-10-24
Term test 2	20%	This will be scheduled by FAS during the Christmas Exam period.	No Specific Date
Term test 3	20%	Test will start at 8:30 am. Location: TBA	2026-02-23
Quizzes and Assignments	20%	Approximately fifteen quizzes and/or assignments throughout the year; dates to be determined during the term. Some in person; some online. One to three lectures advance notice will be provided.	No Specific Date
In-Person Final Exam	20%		Final Exam Period

### **Late Assessment Submissions Policy**

No late submissions will be accepted on Assignments and Quizzes.

## **Policies & Statements**

### **Late/Missed Assignments**

No late submissions will be accepted on Quizzes and Assignments.

### **Make-Up Quizzes/Tests**

No makeup Quizzes or Assignments will be given. Any missed Assignments or Quizzes will be counted as one of your three marks that will be excluded from the calculation of your overall Assignment/Quiz mark.

### **Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with

you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

## **Academic Integrity**

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see [A&S Student Academic Integrity](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca) (<https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>).

## **Specific Medical Circumstances**

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

## **Accommodation for Personal Reasons**

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or other forms of academic consideration. They may be able to email your instructors directly to provide a College Registrar's letter of support and connect you with other helpful resources on campus.

## **Religious Accommodations**

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other

compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

### **Quercus Info (if using)**

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>.  
SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

### **Recording Lectures (by Student)**

Recording lectures for your personal use or the use of your classmates is permitted. Recordings are not to be posted online.