

RRCC Biology Course Info for Fall 2020

In response to COVID-19 and with safety, student success, and quality instruction ALL a priority, the RRCC Biology courses for Fall 2020 are all being taught either in a **Remote format** or in an **Online format**.

What do you mean by "Remote" and "Online"?

- For both format types, there are no on-campus meetings - all instruction occurs online.
- Courses are not self-paced; due dates and deadlines occur throughout the semester.

What is the difference between Remote and Online?

- **Remote:**
 - o All instruction occurs as a mix of synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (on your own time) interactions. This more closely resembles typical face-to-face courses even though there is no on-campus presence.
 - o Regular online class meetings with your instructor (e.g., by video conference like WebEx or Zoom) during the days and times indicated on the schedule of classes.
 - o On-campus (lower) tuition rate ([click here for details on tuition and fees](#))
 - o RRCC courses offered in this format: BIO 105, 106, 111, 112, 201, 202, 204 – identified by section numbers that start with "8" (800, 801, etc.) and with "RDL REMOTE" as the location.
- **Online:**
 - o All instruction occurs online as asynchronous (no real-time) interactions
 - o Requesting an individual meeting with your instructor synchronously online may be an option
 - o Online (higher) tuition rate ([click here for details on tuition and fees](#))
 - o RRCC courses offered in this format: BIO 106, 116, 216 – identified by section numbers that start with "4" (470, 471, etc.) and with "RDL RRCCONLINE" as the location. (Online courses are also available via **CCOnline** – see below for more information on these courses.)

Which one should I pick?

- Choose a **Remote** format course if:
 - o You're someone who does better with a more structured schedule including certain times to attend class and receive some real-time instruction. Note that this means you will need to be available to meet during the days and times indicated in the schedule of classes, just as you would with an on-campus class.
- Choose an **Online** format course if:
 - o You cannot attend synchronous online class meetings (as listed as specific days and times in the schedule of classes).
 - o You'd prefer not to have real-time instruction. Note that there will still be due dates and deadlines – just no real-time instruction.

What about labs?

- All courses that have a laboratory component will still provide students the opportunity to learn the associated content and skills and students will receive laboratory credit as usual.
- Labs will be completed at home and online with a lab kit and/or simulated labs. (more info on next page)

How can I tell the difference between the Remote and Online formats when I register?

- **Remote** courses can be recognized by having a **section number that starts with "8" (800, 801, etc.) and "RDL REMOTE" as the location.**
- **Online** courses can be recognized by having a **section number that starts with "4" (470, 471, etc.) and "RDL RRCCONLINE" as the location.**

What about section numbers that start with "C" (e.g., C11, C21) and have "RCON CCONLINE" as the location?

- These are courses taught and administered by **CCOnline** (not by RRCC) – see below for more information.

What is the difference between the RRCC Remote sections and the CCOnline sections?

The **Remote** RRCC sections:

- Are taught by an RRCC instructor
- More closely resemble face-to-face courses even though there is no on-campus presence
- Have some regular, synchronous (real-time) instruction during the days/times indicated in the schedule
- Have some regular, synchronous interaction with the instructor for discussions and questions (and, possibly, also with other students) during the days/times indicated in the schedule
- Have the possibility of synchronous office hours
- Have lower tuition cost than online courses ([click here for details on tuition and fees](#))

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Expanded information:

We have 3 RRCC **Online** courses (these are offered in this format every semester):

- BIO 106 (this is a lecture only class; it is also being offered in a Remote format)
- BIO 116 (this is a lecture only class)
- BIO 216 (this is a lecture only class)

All of our other RRCC courses are being offered in a **Remote** format. Being "Remote", there are no on-campus meetings but students are registering for specific days and times during which some synchronous (real-time) online instruction will take place.

- Students are expected to be available during the class days and times listed in the schedule of classes, much like they would for a traditional face-to-face class. Instructors are also expected to be available during these times.
- It is not likely that the entire block will be used for synchronous instruction and there will be some variation depending on the course and the instructor.
- We are asking instructors to have at least one regularly scheduled synchronous meeting each week with their class (via WebEx or Zoom or similar) during the scheduled course time. Some instructors may do more, some may meet with the entire class at once, some may break their class into groups and meet that way, some synchronous instruction may be lecture, some may be lab content, etc.
- If a student cannot attend these synchronous class meetings, they should register for an online section (either RRCC **Online** or **CCOnline**).
- That said, as with face-to-face courses, sometimes students have to be absent from class and each class will have their attendance policy outlined in their syllabus. We have informed our instructors that it is best practice to record synchronous class meetings and make the recording available to students afterwards so that they can watch them if they were absent or re-watch them as needed.

Because these are lab classes, a common question is how the laboratory portion of the course will be handled. I have outlined this for each course below and you will see that we will be using lab kits from Hands On Labs (HOL) for most of them (this is the same vendor that is used by CCOnline and many other colleges). Please note that while we fully expect labs to be implemented as described below, there is a small chance that something will have to change. Importantly though, students will still have the opportunity to learn the content and skills and will receive laboratory credit as usual.

- BIO 105 = virtual online labs; this course is entirely OER (no cost for textbooks or lab manuals)
- BIO 111, 112, 201, 202, and 204 = HOL lab kit (may also be supplemented with virtual online labs)

For the RRCC courses with lab kits, we are working with the vendor Hands On Labs (HOL) and the RRCC Bookstore to figure out cost-effective purchasing and shipping that works for our students. The estimated lab kit costs (excluding shipping) are in the table below. **Please note that eligible students may be able to apply for CARES Act scholarship funding that could help reimburse the lab kit cost.** For more information on eligibility and availability of CARES Act funds, please [click here](#) and see your RRCC student email. (CCOnline courses also use lab kits with the cost embedded in their tuition and fees.)

BIO Course	RRCC Delivery Option(s)	Lab Kit Cost (via HOL, excluding shipping)
105	Remote	none - this course is entirely OER for lecture and lab
106	Online or Remote	n/a (not a lab course)
111	Remote	\$225
112	Remote	\$277
116	Online	n/a (not a lab course)
201	Remote	\$120
202	Remote	\$120
204	Remote	\$518 (\$337 kit + \$181 microscope through HOL)
216	Online	n/a (not a lab course)

*see CARES Act funding info here: <https://www.rrcc.edu/cdphe-coronavirus>