

## **Syllabus BIOL 3339 – 001 (20761)**

### **Plant Biology**

### **Spring 2026**

**Meeting Times:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:15am – 12:10pm

**Location:** Soules College of Business (COB) room 00103 on the first floor.

**First Day of Class:** Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

**Last Day of Class:** Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm – 2:30pm

**Date to Withdraw Without Penalty (Census Date):** Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

**Spring Break (No Classes):** Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Instructor:**

Dr. Joshua Banta

Director, Center for Environment, Biodiversity, and Conservation

Professor, Department of Biology

Office: Hudnall, Pirtle, Roosth Building (HPR) Room 129

Phone: (903) 565-5655

Email: [jbanta@uttyler.edu](mailto:jbanta@uttyler.edu)

Office Hours: MWF 1:30pm – 2:30pm, or by appointment, or call my office.

**Course Description:** The course description may also be found online via the UT Tyler Course Catalogue: <https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/catalog/files/course-catalog-2025-26.pdf>

This course focuses on plants, their unique features, their diversity, and how they profoundly influence all life on Earth. The goals of this course are for students to understand what makes a plant a plant and to appreciate the ways in which plants make life possible for humans and life on Earth in general.

**Student Learning Objectives:** By the end of the class, you should be able to...

- 1) Describe what a plant is and how plants are different from animals
- 2) Describe a plant cell, its parts, and its unique features
- 3) Explain how a plant cell captures energy (photosynthesis)
- 4) Describe the main groups of plants and how they differ from each other
- 5) Understand the significance of plants to you and your life, and be able to use your knowledge of plants to make informed decisions

### **Required Materials:**

- Top Hat™ Student Response and Engagement System.
- A smartphone with a working camera.
  - You must be able to hear sound through your smartphone!
- The Respondus lockdown browser installed on your laptop (not a Chromebook):  
<http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=593832943>
  - If you do not have a laptop, or if you use a Chromebook, there will be a computer lab available.

## Recommended Textbook

- *Plant Biology, Third Edition*, published by LJLM Press (Graham, Graham, and Wilcox, authors)
  - Available exclusively for download through this link:
    - [http://ljlmpress.com/plant\\_biology.html](http://ljlmpress.com/plant_biology.html)
  - Cost: \$40.
  - Do not print out the book. It is designed to be read directly on your computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet.

## Grading:

Three exams, each worth 15% of final grade (worth 45% of final grade when added together)

One comprehensive final exam, worth 25% of final grade

Quizzes, worth 10% of the final grade when added together

Top Hat questions, worth 5% of the final grade when added together

Participation, worth 5% of the final grade when added together

Graded assignments, worth 10% of final grade when added together

Total: **100%**

90% – 100% = A

80% – 89.999% = B

70% – 79.999% = C

60% – 69.999% = D

59.999 or lower = F

Final overall scores will not be rounded up to the next highest letter. For instance, an 89.999% will be a B and not an A. But extra credit assignments are available that can make the difference if you are close.

**Participation:**

- This is not an online or a hybrid course. You are expected to be at class on time for every class, and you are expected to stay the whole time. In-class participation is 5% of your grade.
- I will take in-person attendance during every class period. You are not eligible to participate in the course if you are not present.
- Attendance will be taken using the Top Hat student engagement system. It marks your geographic location using your smart phone.
  - You must be physically present in class for your attendance to count. You are not allowed to do the attendance from home, or from the parking lot on your way into class, etc.
  - It is your responsibility to make sure you are marked as present. If you discover later that you were marked as absent but you were present, I will not change it later.
  - Be honest about your attendance. I always call out the names of the persons who will be marked absent, in case there is a mistake. There is a full video record of every class period.
- You are expected to stay focused during class, or else you will be penalized up to a zero for participation for the day, at my discretion. No warning may be given beforehand, and no notification may be provided afterwards. The following are examples where you may be penalized:
  - Working on any other courses (including labs) during class time
    - You are not allowed to work on the plant biology laboratory course during our class time
  - Studying for other exams, for instance studying for organic chemistry or biochemistry exams
  - Streaming movies or other videos not directly related to the content we are working on
  - Watching social media (Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube)
  - Sleeping
  - Not doing the required work or not paying attention for some other reason
  - Arriving late
    - Note that arriving at the very end of class (12:55pm or later) will always result in a zero for participation for the day.
  - Leaving early
- Participation will take different forms on different days. Follow the daily instructions to ensure you receive all the participation points each day.
  - I reserve the right to deduct points from your participation score for the day, depending on your level of participation and engagement during class.
- If you are excused from class:
  - There will be make-up homework with strict deadlines.
  - I reserve the right to deduct points from your participation score for the day, depending on your performance on the make-up homework.
    - This can be up to a zero for participation for the day.
    - This can happen even if you were excused from class with a valid reason.
    - The make-up homework may also count toward the “graded assignments” portion of your grade.
      - See the “Graded Assignments” section below for more details.
  - Failure to do the make-up homework by the deadline will result in a zero for participation for the day that will not be changed.
    - This can happen even if you were excused from class with a valid reason.

**Make-up policy:** If you miss class, there will always be make-up homework to do at home. Therefore, communicating with me in a timely manner is very important.

**Excused absences:**

- I may excuse you from class for the following reasons:
  - Fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
  - A sporting or other university-related event
  - The death of a close family member
- Take into consideration:
  - You must tell me right away (on the same day).
  - You will still have work to do at home!
  - For the first five excused absences, I may or may not require documentation, at my discretion, provided that you communicate with me right away, and provided that I decide to excuse your absence.
    - But even if you provided documentation, the first five excused absences will still count towards your first five.
    - But even for the first five excused absences, you can only be excused for an excused reason, and it is still at my discretion. The first five excused absences are not freebies.
  - After your first five excused absences, I will require official documentation, to my satisfaction and at my discretion, for any further excused absences. Without documentation, further absences will not be excused and will result in zeros for attendance and potentially for other assignments including exams.

- This means that, if you already have five or more excused absences, you must go to the doctor if you are sick
  - The UT Tyler student health clinic has daily walk-in appointments and does not require health insurance
    - <https://www.uttyler.edu/student-life/health-wellness/university-health-clinic/>
    - Call them beforehand
- Examples of potentially acceptable official documentation, at my discretion, include:
  - A doctor's note directing me to excuse your absence and listing the specific dates covered. I do not accept doctors' notes where you filled in the details yourself.
  - An official correspondence from the university directing me to excuse your absence and listing the specific dates covered
  - A police report containing your name and the relevant dates
  - A letter or an email from a funeral home naming the deceased person and the date of the funeral
- Examples of unacceptable documentation include:
  - Any photos, including:
    - Photos of yourself holding a thermometer and/or looking sick
    - Photos of a car accident
  - Any receipts, including a receipt from a towing company
  - Airline tickets
  - A doctor's note that you filled out yourself, whether in whole or in part
- You are not excused from class for these reasons:
  - Attending another instructor's or TA's or SI leader's office hours or study sessions
  - Taking a regular exam or a make-up exam, even if it was scheduled with the testing center
  - Making up a laboratory
  - Attending an advising appointment (even if they are hard to get and even if you did not schedule it)
  - Car troubles, car maintenance, or traffic
  - Living far away from campus
  - Taking a long-planned family vacation
  - A routine dental, vision, or medical checkup
  - Airline tickets and/or other reservations that would be expensive to change or cannot be changed
  - Obligations outside of class such as your work schedule
  - Weddings, honeymoons, baby showers, family reunions, and similar events, even if you are in the wedding party and/or you are organizing the event(s), and even if they were organized a long time ago.
- If you miss more than 10 classes, whether excused or unexcused:
  - You may have the option to drop or withdraw from the course. But this is at the discretion of the university, not at my discretion
  - If you are not given the option to drop or withdraw from the course, you will generally receive an F as your final overall letter grade, regardless of your overall performance in the course.
    - This F will not be changed in the future, except according to the university's regular grade replacement policy.
      - For more information: <https://www.uttyler.edu/current-students/registrar/policies/repeating-courses-grade-replacement/>
    - I will not allow a student to pass the course with more than 10 absences, excused or other otherwise, unless I am directed to do so by the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office or by other university officials.
      - If you have a chronic condition or a disability that may require you to miss more than 10 classes, please work with the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office to come up with a plan and to direct me as to what accommodations I should provide.
        - <https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/disability-services/>
        - Phone number: 903-566-7079
        - Email: [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu)
      - If you are pregnant, resources are available, and the university will direct me as to what accommodations I should provide. But you must opt into this system by contacting the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office and reporting yourself pregnant. The university will maintain the confidentiality of student records and documentation to the extent possible under state and federal law.
        - More information: <https://uttyler.smartcatalogiq.com/en/uttyler/ut-tyler-hop/series-500-student-success/5-14-3-student-pregnancy-and-parenting-nondiscrimination/>
        - Without direction from the SAR office, I must hold you to the same attendance standards as all other students.

**Correspondence:** You are required to activate the email address that is listed for you on Canvas and to check it regularly. You must check this email address at a minimum every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, for the entire duration of the semester, for any correspondence from me. You are also required to check the Canvas site for this course every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning as well, for the entire duration of the semester, for any announcements. You will be held responsible for any information, including deadlines, that I communicate to you via your email address listed on Canvas and/or through the announcements on the Canvas course site. The information could come from one or both places (email and/or Canvas announcements), so you must check **both** places on the schedule indicated above.

**Due Dates and Deadlines:** You are required to have this course visible in your calendar on Canvas. To do so, make sure the box for the course has a check mark. You will be held responsible for all of the due dates and deadlines for this course that are indicated in your Canvas calendar.

**Appeals:** If you think something was scored incorrectly, you will need to follow the following procedure:

- Write a few sentences explaining why you think you should have received a different score.
- Appeals will only be accepted through Canvas, and must be turned in no later than one week after the assignment was graded. Go to the course site and select “Modules” → “Appeals.”
- Failure to follow these rules means that your appeal will not be considered.
- The only reasons I will give back points are if: (1) I made a math error; or (2) I decide that your answer was factually correct and followed all applicable rules indicated in the syllabus and elsewhere. By “factually correct,” I mean that your answer was really true about the world. Please also note that I, alone, will determine what is factually correct and what is not.
- The following are **not** valid reasons for getting points back: you feel that I explained something badly, you misunderstood what I was saying, you disagree with what I was presenting, or you feel that my PowerPoint slides or other materials were wrong or unclear.
- Because of privacy, please note that I cannot discuss anyone else’s scores with you, even if you say that you have their permission, and even if they say that I have their permission. I lack the legal expertise to allow someone to waive their privacy privileges, even if they want me to, and even if they have already shared their scores with others on their own.
- Appeals can result in a lower score, the same score, or a higher score than you originally received. Specifically note that I reserve the right to **lower** your score if I re-evaluate it and deem it appropriate.

**Weather and/or closures:** In the event of weather-related or other closures, the course will proceed entirely online instead. Deadlines will not be altered except under extreme circumstances at my discretion. The bottom line is that, even if the university gets closed, this course will stay “open” as originally scheduled unless I announce otherwise.

**Privacy:** Students do **not** have the right to be “anonymous” whether classes are in person or online, or for all-online classes. Your names may be displayed to others in the course on Canvas and in the in-person course.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools’ ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler’s Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler’s Academic Integrity Policy.

**For this course, AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required.**

**Quizzes:** There are three quizzes due three times per week. The quizzes are embedded into pre-recorded videos on Canvas. In other words, you will take the quizzes as you watch the videos. The quiz questions automatically pop up on your screen as you go along. The due dates of the quizzes are indicated in your Canvas calendars. The quizzes are due **every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday evening** throughout the entire semester. There will almost always be multiple videos with quizzes due on a particular day. Together they will be 10% of your final grade when they are all added together. **If you do not keep up with the quizzes, you could drop a whole letter grade or more, just based on the lost points!**

#### **Top Hat Questions:**

- You will have multiple-choice questions to answer using Top Hat as part of your homework that will be due every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday night.
- These questions are for me (and for you) to discover what you do and do not understand, as well as to help you study for the exams.
- There will be multiple Top Hat questions to answer on a particular day, which together will add up to 100 Top Hat points for the day.
- Together with all of the other Top Hat questions throughout the semester, they will be 5% of your final grade when they are all added together.
- **The Top Hat questions could make the difference between one letter grade and another!**
- Please note: **when you register for Top Hat, you are required to use your Patriots email address as your email address.** Please do not give Top Hat any other email addresses.

#### **Exams:**

- There will be three exams this semester.
- You must take the exam on a laptop,
  - You cannot use an iPad or your phone.
  - You cannot use a Chromebook.
  - I will have a computer lab available to those who need it.
- The exam is open-book but not open-internet.
  - You will only be able to access the textbook and the PowerPoint slides.
  - You will be using a lockdown browser.
  - You should print out or write out anything else that you want to use and bring it with you to the exam. If you forget to bring those materials, then you will have to take the exam without them.
  - You are not allowed to bring answers to past exams in any form.
- No other devices are allowed.
  - All other internet devices must be put away during the entire exam, or you will get a penalty up to a zero on the exam at my discretion.
- There will be a strict time limit of 50 minutes.
- You are not allowed to work on your exam with anyone else, to talk to anyone else about your exam, to help anyone else with their exam, or to accept anyone else's help with your exam.
  - If you are caught working with anyone else on an exam, you will receive a zero for that exam and so will the person who was working on it with you or helping you.
- **Each person's exam is different**, because each person's questions are drawn from a test bank of hundreds of questions.
  - On average, you will only have one minute to answer each question!
  - Study just as hard for these exams, and memorize things just as much for these exams, as you would for any regular closed-book exams.
- The exams will be taken during regularly scheduled class times. You must be in class, in person, on exam days, just like on any other class days.
  - If you were excused ahead of time, please remind me and I will arrange for a make-up exam.

#### **Final Exam:**

- **All of the information above for the regular exams also pertains to the final exam.**
- The only differences are:
  - The final exam will be longer. Rather than 50 minutes, you will have two hours.
  - Rather than 50 questions, there will be 100 questions.
  - The final exam will be cumulative, meaning that it will cover everything from throughout the entire semester.

**Graded Assignments:** The following in-class assignments will be graded as part of the “Graded Assignments” portion of your grade:

Due Date	Assignment
Fri, Jan. 16, 2026	Greenhouse Effect Diagram
<b>Fri, Jan. 23, 2026</b>	<b>Plant Cell Review Questions</b>
Wed, Jan. 28, 2026	Photosynthesis Diagram
<b>Fri, Jan. 30, 2026</b>	<b>Photosynthesis Review Questions</b>
<b>Fri, Feb. 13, 2026</b>	<b>Stem and Materials Transport Review Questions</b>
<b>Fri, Feb. 20, 2026</b>	<b>Leaves Review Questions</b>
Wed, Feb. 25, 2026	C3 Photosynthesis Drawing
Fri, Feb. 27, 2026	C4 Photosynthesis Drawing
Mon, Mar. 2, 2026	CAM Photosynthesis Drawing
Fri, Mar. 20, 2026	Plant Life Cycle Diagrams
<b>Fri, Mar. 27, 2026</b>	<b>Gymnosperm Review Questions</b>
<b>Fri, Apr. 3, 2026</b>	<b>Extra Gymnosperm Discussion Questions</b>
<b>Fri, Apr. 17, 2025</b>	<b>Angiosperm Review Questions</b>
<b>Fri, Apr. 24, 2025</b>	<b>Angiosperm-Animal Coevolution Review Questions</b>

Detailed instructions will be provided during class.

**For the assignments in red:** These assignments cannot be done ahead of time. They will be done during class using a lockdown browser. A computer lab will be available to those without the appropriate laptops. You will only have access to the lecture videos, the textbook, and the PowerPoint slides. You will not be allowed to use any papers or notes of your own. You will spend the class period answering the indicated review questions and providing in-text citations, following the instructions I provide to you during class. At the end of the class period, you will turn in the assignment. No other internet devices besides your laptop or the computer lab computer will be allowed. If you are absent from class on one of those dates **with an excused absence**, I will provide you with a make-up assignment. If you are absent from class on one of those dates **without an excused absence**, you will receive a zero for the assignment and you will not be able to make it up or replace it. Missing these assignments could have a large effect on your final overall letter grade in the course.

These assignments could also be used as a part of the “Participation” portion of your grade. I also reserve the right to use any other assignments from class as part of the “Participation” portion of your grade.

**Extra Credit:** There is extra credit available. Specifically:

Assignment	Points Possible
In-person extra-credit for the Darwin Day 2026 lecture at TJC	0.3
In-person extra-credit for the Darwin Day 2026 lecture at UT Tyler	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the Darwin Day 2026 lecture at TJC	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the Darwin Day 2026 lecture at UT Tyler	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the Darwin Day 2025 lecture at TJC	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the Darwin Day 2025 lecture at UT Tyler	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the Darwin Day 2024 lecture at TJC	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the Darwin Day 2022 lecture at TJC	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the Darwin Day 2021 lecture	0.3
Extra-credit quiz on the appeals process	0.03

Students may not earn extra credit for both an in-person assignment and its corresponding quiz. Quizzes are intended only for students who did not attend the in-person lecture or for lectures from prior years.

These extra credit videos contain quizzes that you will take automatically as you watch the videos. They are available for you to watch right now. They are due by Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm. You can do as many or as few of them as you want.

There will also be other extra credit opportunities that will be added later. The instructions will be presented during class.

The extra credit will not show up in your overall final score on Canvas. But you can add them in yourself. For instance, if your estimated overall final score is an 89.7%, and if you received 0.3 points on the extra-credit quiz about Dr. Sotola's research, then you can estimate your overall final score to be a 90.0%.

Please be aware that the overall final score shown to you on Canvas is only an estimate, and it may not be up to date and/or accurate. Canvas calculates an estimate of your overall final score automatically and then shows it to you. But I can only guarantee your overall final score after I have graded all your assignments and I have calculated it myself, by hand.



**Grade grubbing:** Grade grubbing will not be tolerated. I have quoted some relevant passages below about grade grubbing. They come from an excellent website that I recommend you read:

<https://marktomforde.com/academic/undergraduates/GradeGrubbing.html>

Grade Grubbing (also called "grade begging" or "grade lawyering") is the act of a student going to a professor and asking for a grade to be raised for no legitimate reason. Often the student argues that they feel their work was "not graded fairly", or they made only a small mistake and should get more points, or they knew what they were doing even though they gave the wrong answer. Grade grubbing often involves asking for detailed justification of why certain points were taken off, questioning subjective aspects of grading (e.g., Why is this problem worth 5 points and this one worth 7 points?), and wearing down the professor by arguing, begging, and pleading until they finally relent and increase the student's grade.

...In addition, grade grubbing presents a very negative image of you: it indicates that you do not care about learning the material, and that all that matters to you is your grade in the class, even if you get that grade unfairly or **when you do not deserve it.**

Grade grubbing greatly affects the way your professors view you and the way they will treat you in the future. If you challenge your grade without a good reason, you will probably not be remembered fondly when you ask that professor for a recommendation...

...If an obvious error has been made in grading, such as points added incorrectly or a clearly correct answer was inadvertently marked wrong, then by all means talk to the professor and they will likely change your grade immediately. Likewise, if you don't understand why you lost points, or want clarification (not justification) of the grading, most professors are happy to talk with you. **And, if you want to discuss the material, learn what you did wrong, or discuss how to do better on future work, most professors will probably be thrilled to speak to you about this.**

However, if you are going to approach a professor who has spent their life studying, teaching, and doing research on a particular topic, and then argue that their decision of how to grade or award points should be changed to what you say it should be, then you better be prepared with a strong and convincing argument.

Source: <https://marktomforde.com/academic/undergraduates/GradeGrubbing.html>

**Please do not ask me to raise your grade when you have not earned it, even if you really need or really want a higher grade.** This presents a very negative picture of you. I will not honor those requests. Below is a made-up example:

*Dear Dr. Banta, I'm writing about my overall final score of 78.9% to see if it could be adjusted to a B. While I accept that it is my fault, I really need a B to maintain a 3.0 GPA and to keep my scholarships. Thank you for considering my request. Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_*

**Academic integrity:** Cheating or any other type of academic misconduct will be reported to the university administration, and at minimum will result in failure of the course.

**Class schedule** (subject to change):

**Lecture Topics**

Introduction

Plants and People

Plant Cells

Photosynthesis: Overview

Plant Structure, Growth, and Development

Stems and Materials Transport

Roots and Plant Nutrition

Leaves

Photosynthesis: Different Types of Photosynthesis<sup>2</sup>

Plant “Behavior”

Reproduction and Life Cycles

Plant Diversity: Seedless Plants

Plant Diversity: Gymnosperms

Plant Diversity: Angiosperms

Animal-Plant Coevolution

**Tentative exam schedule** (subject to change):

Exam 1: Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

- Introduction
- Plants and People
- Plant Cells
- Photosynthesis: Overview

Exam 2: Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

- Plant Structure, Growth, and Development
- Stems and Materials Transport
- Roots and Plant Nutrition
- Leaves
- Photosynthesis: Different Types of Photosynthesis

Exam 3: Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

- Plant “Behavior”
- Reproduction and Life Cycles
- Plant Diversity: Seedless Plants
- Plant Diversity: Gymnosperms

Final Exam: Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm – 2:30pm (Note time!) in our usual room

- The final will be ***cumulative*** and cover:
  - Everything from the entire semester, as well as:
  - Plant Diversity: Angiosperms
  - Animal-Plant Coevolution

## Top Hat

We will be using Top Hat (<https://tophat.com>) for class participation. Top Hat is an educational platform that integrates interactive features into learning materials, enhancing class engagement and comprehension.

For instructions on how to download the Top Hat app, please refer to our [Student's Getting Started Guide online](#).

### Creating your Top Hat Account / Logging In

If you already have a Top Hat account, go to <https://app.tophat.com/c/020393/> to be taken directly to our course.

If you are new to Top Hat, follow the link in the email invitation you received or...

- Go to <https://app.tophat.com/register/student>
- Click "Search by the school" and input the name of our school
- Search for our course with the following Join Code: 020393

Important! You cannot create a Top Hat account using the mobile application, please first sign-up (using your school issued email address) and enroll into your course using a web browser.

### Important Canvas Role Check:

Your Canvas account role must be "**Student**". You can verify this in the "**People**" tab in Canvas under the "**Role**" column. If your role is listed as anything other than Student, your grades will not sync to Canvas from Top Hat. Please connect with your instructor to correct this—Top Hat Support cannot change your Canvas role.

### Enrolling into your course:

- **Do not** enroll directly into the Top Hat course.
- To enroll correctly, click the Top Hat link in your Canvas course navigation. Look for a link labeled "**Top Hat**", "**Top Hat LTI 1.3**", or "**Launch Link**".
- Clicking the Top Hat link ensures you are enrolled into the correct course or course section in Top Hat.
- After clicking the link, you'll be redirected to Top Hat (make sure pop-up blockers are disabled).
- Create a student account or log in to an existing account using your official school email address.
- **Important:** Do not use the Top Hat mobile app to sign up or make purchases—use a desktop browser like Chrome or Firefox.
- You may see a message like "**Account not active or Additional Materials Required**" if you attempt to enroll via the mobile app. Please complete your enrollment and purchases in a desktop browser first.
- Once your account is set up and linked, you can access Top Hat using the mobile app.

### If you do not click the Top Hat link:

- You will be shown a message in Top Hat instructing you to do so (**web browser only**).
- You may be removed from the Top Hat course during the nightly roster sync if you enrolled directly in Top Hat (not recommended).

If you are removed, please follow the enrollment steps above again.

[Student-LTI Course Enrollment \(Canvas\)](#)

### Grade syncs from Top Hat to Canvas:

Grade sync settings are determined by your course instructor. For clarification on when to expect your grades in Canvas, please connect with your educator directly.

### Helpful Top Hat Lingo

- **Join Code / JC:** The unique 6-digit code specific to your Top Hat course.
- **LMS:** Learning Management System (Canvas, Blackboard, D2L, etc.).
- **Course Content:** Questions, readings, assignments, exams, presentations, discussions, etc.
- **Top Hat Access Key:** A redemption code used for specific products like eTextbooks (often purchased through vendors).
- **Bookstore Redemption Code:** Purchased through your campus bookstore and exchanged for an Access Key on Top Hat.
- **Secure Attendance:** Location-based confirmation to mark attendance in class.
- **Homework:** Graded submissions that are tracked in the gradebook.
- **Review:** Practice questions not graded—intended for self-study.

### Top Tips for Contacting Top Hat Support

- Include your Top Hat account email.
- When reaching out, provide the following (if applicable):
  - 6-digit Join Code
  - Course name and instructor
  - Question titles
  - Relevant URLs or screenshots
  - Submission method (web, app, or text)
  - Date and time of the issue
- Contact Top Hat Support:
  - Click the ? icon in your Top Hat app or browser
  - Visit the [Support Site](#)
  - Submit a request via the [Contact Form](#)

Please note: **when you register for Top Hat, you are required to use your Patriots email address as your email address.** Please do not give Top Hat any other email addresses.

**Student Resources and University Policies:** These can be found on the Canvas course page under “Modules” ➔ “Course Information.”