

Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 717

Course Name: From Chaos to Community: Classroom Management Foundations for PreK-8

Instructor: Casey Rekowski

Credits Earned: 3 Graduate Credits, which equates to:

- 67.5 PDPs (courses taken prior to June 8, 2026)
- 22.5 PDPs (courses taken after June 8, 2026)

Credits Issued By: Gordon College

Course Fee: \$675 (\$625 with early registration discount)

Course Description:

This course provides Massachusetts PreK-8 educators with a comprehensive, research-based foundation in classroom management -- from establishing norms and routines on day one to building the relational classroom culture that sustains productive learning throughout the year. Grounded in behavioral science, cultural responsiveness, and the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Framework, participants develop a personalized classroom management plan ready for immediate implementation. n Framework. ; conversations that are both educationally essential and professionally challenging. This course builds the facilitation skills, discussion structures, and professional dispositions Massachusetts teachers need to lead these conversations well: preparing students to engage productively, maintaining psychological safety, handling moments when discussion breaks down, and navigating the relationship between classroom discussion and community context. This course is aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Design and implement explicit procedures and routines that establish predictable, productive classroom environments from the first day of school.
2. Apply principles of positive behavioral reinforcement to build student engagement and reduce disruptive behavior.
3. Develop culturally responsive classroom management practices that affirm student identity and build community.
4. Use data from classroom observations and behavioral patterns to identify and address chronic management challenges.
5. Create a personalized classroom management plan aligned to your grade level, student population, and school context.