



Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 709

Course Name: The Reading Brain: Science, Research & Classroom Practice for Massachusetts Teachers

Instructor: TBD

Credits Earned: 3 Graduate Credits / 67.5 PDPs (for courses completed before June 8, 2025) or 22.5 PDPs (for courses completed on or after June 8, 2025)

Credits Issued By: Gordon College

Course Fee: \$675 (\$575 for early bird registration)

Course Description:

This course provides Massachusetts PreK–5 educators with a rigorous foundation in the Science of Reading — the decades-long body of cognitive science research that establishes how children learn to read and what evidence-based instruction looks like. Beginning with the Simple View of Reading and Scarborough's Reading Rope, participants build deep understanding of all five components of skilled reading and translate that knowledge into explicit, systematic literacy instruction aligned to the Mass Literacy Guide. This course is aligned to the Massachusetts State Frameworks, the Mass Literacy Guide, and DESE's Literacy Launch framework.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the Simple View of Reading, Scarborough's Reading Rope, and the five components of skilled reading using current cognitive science research.
2. Design explicit, systematic literacy lessons in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.
3. Apply culturally and linguistically sustaining literacy practices aligned to the Mass Literacy Guide's guidance for multilingual learners.
4. Analyze student reading data through a Science of Reading lens to identify skill gaps and plan targeted instruction.
5. Evaluate current classroom literacy practices against the evidence base and identify specific improvements aligned to the Mass Literacy Guide.

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