

Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 709

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

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-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 Curriculum Frameworks.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the cognitive science of reading acquisition using the Simple View of Reading and Scarborough's Reading Rope as organizational frameworks.
2. Design phonemic awareness and phonics instruction that is explicit, systematic, and aligned to the Mass Literacy Guide's scope and sequence.
3. Apply culturally and linguistically sustaining literacy practices aligned to the Mass Literacy Guide's guidance for multilingual learners.
4. Evaluate current classroom literacy practices against the evidence base and identify specific improvements aligned to the Mass Literacy Guide.
5. Develop a structured literacy lesson using the gradual release model that integrates all five components of reading.