



Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 717

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

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 PreK-8 educators with a comprehensive, research-based framework for building positive classroom communities that prevent behavioral problems before they start. Drawing on Wong and Wong's foundational work and current research on culturally responsive classroom management, participants design their physical environment, establish procedures and routines, build relationships, and develop a personal classroom management philosophy grounded in high expectations and student dignity. This course is aligned to the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Framework.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Design a proactive classroom management system — including physical environment, procedures, routines, and expectations — aligned to the developmental needs of PreK-8 students.
2. Apply research on culturally responsive classroom management to build inclusive, equitable classroom communities.
3. Use relationship-building strategies to establish trust, motivation, and a sense of belonging for all students, including multilingual learners and students with IEPs.
4. Develop a personal classroom management philosophy grounded in high expectations, student dignity, and prevention-first principles.
5. Analyze classroom management challenges using a function-based lens and select evidence-based strategies for prevention and response.

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