



Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 719

Course Name: Credibility & Control: Classroom Management for Secondary Educators

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 equips grades 9–12 educators with the research-based classroom management strategies, relationship-building skills, and instructional design principles needed to create and maintain productive, respectful learning environments with adolescent students. Drawing on research on adolescent brain development, autonomy-supportive teaching, and culturally responsive practice, participants develop management approaches that build student ownership of learning and reduce power struggles. This course is aligned to the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Framework.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply research on adolescent brain development and motivation to design classroom management systems that build student autonomy and ownership.
2. Establish and maintain teacher credibility through instructional quality, relationship-building, and consistent, transparent expectations.
3. Use culturally responsive strategies to create inclusive, high-expectation classroom environments that respect adolescent identity and agency.
4. Prevent and de-escalate behavioral challenges using research-based strategies that preserve student dignity and classroom community.
5. Design engaging, rigorous instructional experiences that reduce behavioral problems by increasing student investment in learning.

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