

Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 727

Course Name: Level Up: Gamification & Game-Based Learning for K-12 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 equips Massachusetts K-12 educators with the theory and practice of gamification and game-based learning, moving beyond novelty to meaningful application. Participants examine the research on motivation, engagement, and learning through play; design gamified instructional experiences; and develop a game-based learning unit aligned to Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. n Framework and the Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) Standards. ; 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. Distinguish between gamification and game-based learning and identify the appropriate application of each in different instructional contexts.
2. Apply research on motivation, engagement, and play to design gamified learning experiences that promote intrinsic motivation.
3. Design a gamified assessment or learning sequence that uses game mechanics to increase student persistence and engagement.
4. Develop a game-based learning unit aligned to Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards.
5. Evaluate gamification and game-based learning design for equity, accessibility, and alignment to learning goals.