

Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 711

Course Name: Still Learning to Read: Literacy Intervention for Older Students

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:

Massachusetts's literacy initiatives focus primarily on PreK-3, yet many students reach the upper elementary and middle grades without the foundational reading skills they need. This course equips grades 4-8 educators to identify older struggling readers, select interventions from DESE's A-List, and implement evidence-based vocabulary and comprehension instruction across content areas. Particular attention is given to ELL students and to the distinction between language acquisition needs and reading disabilities. This course is aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the profiles of older struggling readers and distinguish between students with reading disabilities and students with language acquisition needs.
2. Select and implement appropriate interventions from DESE's A-List of Approved Literacy Interventions for Grades 4-9.
3. Design explicit vocabulary instruction using evidence-based techniques appropriate for upper elementary and middle school students.
4. Apply evidence-based comprehension strategies across content areas to support disciplinary literacy development.
5. Develop a tiered intervention plan for a struggling reader that integrates DESE's A-List recommendations.