

Molloy College Summer Institute
Cultivating Expert ENL Learners: Using the modalities to create
Authentic Instruction
EDU 5900.49



Dr. Katie DiGregorio
KDiGregorio@molloy.edu
Digregoriok92@gmail.com
631-806-0740

July 28th – July 21st, 2025

Fully Online Course & Asynchronous

Course Description: In this course, students will explore how to use instructional technology and STEAM activities to engage ELLs in authentic learning. Providing ENL students with foundational skills is essential for ELLs. This course will explore how to leverage the areas of strengths the ENL students have in your classrooms and provide authentic learning opportunities through various instructional strategies. In this course we will explore how to promote high levels of speaking, reading, writing, and listening through various instructional routines and strategies. We will engage in discussions on how to elevate and build background knowledge to access grade-level Science, Math, and English Language Arts content. Creating authentic learning opportunities for critical thinking in various modalities is essential for designing instruction. Cultivating expert learners by creating multiple entry points allows ENL students to engage in complex problem-solving and thinking. The thinking routines and strategies shared will show how to develop ELLs' critical content area knowledge in a low affective filter setting and with a high level of language use and success. The shift for instruction is to have all students be apprenticed through inquiry.

Course Objectives:

- **Integrate Instructional Technology:**
Utilize digital tools and resources to support and enhance the learning experiences of English Language Learners through engaging, authentic, and interactive STEAM-based activities.
- **Leverage Student Strengths:**
Identify and build upon the existing strengths and cultural assets of ENL students to foster meaningful and inclusive learning environments.
- **Design Authentic Learning Opportunities:**
Create real-world, inquiry-based learning experiences that promote critical thinking and problem-solving across content areas.
- **Cultivate Background Knowledge:**
Implement strategies that help ELLs access and build background knowledge necessary for understanding and engaging with grade-level academic content.

- **Foster Multimodal Learning:**
Design instruction that includes multiple modalities and entry points, allowing all learners to access content and demonstrate understanding in various ways.
- **Support Critical Thinking and Inquiry:**
Use thinking routines and instructional strategies to encourage complex reasoning and inquiry-based learning within a low-stress (low affective filter) classroom environment.
- **Promote Expert Learning:**
Empower ELLs to become independent, strategic, and self-motivated learners capable of navigating complex content and academic tasks.

Course Outline: (Course Outline is subject to change) Readings may change!

Monday, July 28th:

Topic: *How can we cultivate an expert learner?*

Tuesday, July 29th:

Topic: *SWRL'ing in your lessons with STEAM*

Wednesday, July 30th:

Topic: *Hands-On Authentic Learning and Artificial Intelligence*

Thursday, July 31st:

Topic: *Assessing student growth with Standards-Based and Conferencing*

"Pre-Recorded" Video Meeting

Each day Dr. DiGregorio will post an instructional video via Canvas to discuss virtually the lesson for the day. This pre-recorded video will walk you through the aspect of the lesson for the day. This is a beneficial practice for students as well you can go through the video at your own pace and have it as a reference during the entire week.

Dr. DiGregorio may also host a live Q & A Session that is completely optional each day as well. More information to follow.

Course Assignments:

- Attendance & Participation is crucial to success! 50% of grade
 - Mini daily classwork lessons & participation (50%)
- In service credit Assignment- Create **one** lesson plan in a format in which you are familiar with in which you incorporate (1) a component of a SIOP model and (2) an ELL strategy. Write a one-page reflection on how the technology enhances the topic in which the lesson focuses on.
- Graduate Credit Assignment- Create a **multiday** lesson plan in a format you are comfortable with in which you incorporate the activities from the daily lessons. The

key is to include aspects of the following (1) components of SIOP lesson planning (2) an appropriate scaffold/ELL strategies (3) Several technology tools/hands-on activities and (4) appropriate and content relevant way to formative or summative assess the students. (5) Brief narrative of the lesson plan design (50 % of grade). Assignment is Due two weeks after the class ends. Due Friday, August 15th