

EDU 5900 64 - Asynchronous Online
Promoting Comprehension through Complexity: Leveraging The Classics for All Learners
August 4, 2025 - August 7, 2025
Molloy University
Laurie A. Bocca
LBocca1@molloy.edu

Course Description:

This asynchronous, online course for teachers of grades 5-12 of English Language Arts, Reading, Literacy, and all things reading comprehension will prepare and encourage its participants to leverage the Classics, poetry, and Traditional texts to strengthen student engagement and critical thinking skills, with an emphasis on Growth Mindset and embracing complexity. With the rise in Artificial Intelligence and instantaneous information retrieval, students need to practice thinking critically and extensively through challenges now more than ever; Classical literature – and complex literature on the whole – offers the timeless intricacy and cultural import necessary for said thinking processes. Participants will explore and use a variety of activity, text, and assessment types either in their planned teaching or actual teaching experience, with coursework tailored to participants' current and proposed instruction. Through the use of these multimodal and diverse resources, students will be able to: strengthen their writing and expression skills, develop their abilities to engage in metacognitive learning, participate more fully in meaningful collaboration, and explore the range and depth of new ideas. Participants will have plenty of opportunities to try out and employ new strategies with the support of a practicing teacher.

Course Access:

This course will be accessible through Molloy's Canvas portal. Login using your Molloy email/username and password to locate the course and its corresponding assignments. All assignments, materials, and instructional modules will be on our course's page! Please feel free to email with any questions!

Canvas Tips:

- Login prior to the first day of class to make sure your credentials work.
- Check the MODULES and the ASSIGNMENTS tabs to see work posted and due (these will be used most)
- If you download the app to your phone, you can turn on notifications.
- If you are stuck, Canvas has a troubleshooting service linked on your account (the "Help" button on the left-side ribbon).
- Canvas has its own messaging system; you can contact your professor or other students through the portal itself.

Course Module Calendar

Day	Modules	Assignment Due Dates
Day One: 8/4	<p>Why Study the Classics? <i>Explore and define the academic and personal benefits of studying Classical and complex literature.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read the articles posted in Module 1. ● Watch the video posted in Module 1. <p>Assignment/Discussion: “Introducing Me” slides for discussion post (one original post and two responses)</p>	<p>All module assignments due at 11:59 PM on 8/4.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Includes discussion posts*</i></p>
Day Two: 8/5	<p>Make Thinking Visible: <i>Survey techniques for making complex thought processes and ideas material and observable.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read the articles/resources posted in Module 2. ● Watch the video posted in Module 2. <p>Assignment: Create a learning activity for a complex text (a poem, short story, scene from a play, etc...) using one of the thinking routines/protocols described and discussed in the module posts.</p>	<p>All module assignments due at 11:59 PM on 8/5.</p>
Day Three: 8/6	<p>Creating Personal Relationships with Literature: <i>Ask thoughtful questions and create meaningful activities to foster students’ abilities to forge bonds between Classical texts and themselves.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review pre-, during-, and post- reading strategies for fostering text-to-self connections. ● Survey model questions and activities. ● Watch/review all materials posted in module <p>Assignment 1: Create a before-, during-, and after-reading series of activities that implicitly and explicitly create ties between students’ personal lives and Classical/Traditional texts.</p> <p>Assignment 2: Post at least one of your activities to the Module 3 discussion board, and comment on at least two of your classmates’ activities.</p>	<p>All module assignments due at 11:59 PM on 8/6.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Includes discussion posts*</i></p>
Day Four: 8/7	<p>Boosting Student Engagement with Technology: <i>Use educational technology to support students’ understandings and appreciation of the Classics and complex literature.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read all materials in Module 4. ● Watch instructional videos in Module 4. <p>Assignment: Compose a series of three lesson plans for teaching a key segment of a Traditional/Classical/complex work of literature, using at least one educational technology platform reviewed in the module and two of the methods reviewed in this course.</p> <p>Discussion: Post one of your plans (with materials), and comment on two other classmates’ plans.</p>	<p>All module assignments due at 11:59 PM on 8/7.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Includes discussion posts*</i></p>

Grading Policy:

All assignments are due by the end of the course on August 7th, 2025 (unless otherwise noted on Canvas), but each late assignment will incur point deductions if submitted after the original due date. Every day late equals a one-point deduction. While you may submit work up until the last day of class, be mindful of each assignment's listed due date BEFORE the end of the course.

Feel free to be creative in the composition of your materials! I am a practicing teacher, and I love learning how others implement their instructional strategies – the more creative the better! Do not be afraid to ask questions if you are unsure of the grading criteria for a particular assignment or of expectations; I am always available to help!

Online Courtesy:

It is expected that you interact politely and collegially with your peers. Please be mindful of your posts and interactions, and please compose all of your replies, assignments, and posts using formal language (please avoid any and all internet slang, abbreviations, and the like). Please be respectful of your classmates' opinions and ideas to ensure a collaborative learning environment.

Contact Information:

Laurie Bocca

LBocca1@molloy.edu

****I will respond to emails within 24 hours****