

MOLLOY UNIVERSITY
School of Education and Human Services
Department of Teacher Education

EDU 5900-04- Creative Connections (3 credits)

Fall 2026

Online: Sept. 21 - Oct. 2, 2026

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Ryan

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Course Description:

Teachers have reimagined their classrooms and the ways they teach. This course is about developing connections and relationships with your students and their families. By building a classroom culture that is student-centric, we can engage our learners. We will be exploring and utilizing Canva as a technology resource to enhance our teaching. This will be applicable to classrooms that are virtual, hybrid, or in-person.

Shared Vision:

The Molloy University Teacher Education faculty has derived its vision for the exemplary teacher from the University's mission statement, the four pillars of the Dominican tradition, comments and input from the Professional Education Unit's Advisory Board and degree candidates as well as numerous faculty discussions rooted in the department's knowledge base which undergirds the initial and advanced programs' curriculum, pedagogy, and values

The teaching professionals who complete Molloy's teacher preparation programs are distinguished by their ability to exemplify and promote core values in their own teaching. These values include:

- Belief that all children can learn
- Learner-centered and value-centered curriculum and pedagogy
- Ethics and spirituality
- Intellectual curiosity
- Independence and risk taking, while promoting collective identity and responsibility
- Diversity, multiculturalism and pluralism, including divergent thinking
- Passion for teaching
- Commitment to students and their communities
- Civic responsibility through the promotion of social justice and interdependence
- Commitment to democracy

Accessing the Course:

The course will be offered online through Canvas, our online course system. You will need to become familiar with [Canvas](#).

- Log-in using your Molloy e-mail username and password
- Click the "Courses" tab (top left-hand side of the page) & select: "Creative Connections" in the drop-down menu
- **Log-in prior to the course just to ensure that your account has been set-up properly!**
- Take the [Canvas Student Tour](#) or visit the [Canvas Student Quickstart Page](#)

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- **Foster a student-centered classroom culture** by applying strategies to build meaningful connections with students and their families.
- **Design engaging digital resources using Canva** (e.g., schedules, newsletters, infographics, posters, and videos) to enhance classroom communication and instruction across virtual, hybrid, and in-person settings.
- **Strengthen home-school partnerships** by creating welcoming digital content (e.g., classroom headers, social media posts, newsletters) that supports collaboration with parents and guardians.
- **Leverage technology to support classroom community** through the thoughtful integration of visuals, multimedia, and interactive tools.
- **Demonstrate creativity and professionalism** in developing classroom-ready digital materials that promote organization, communication, and engagement.

Course Format:

This course will be offered online through Canvas, Molloy's learning management system. The course will open six days before the start date and close on the last day of class. This section is offered Sept. 21 - Oct. 2, 2026. There will be four due dates with activities and discussions that must be completed at 9PM that day.

Dates & Times to Remember:

While an online course gives you the flexibility to complete the work when it is most convenient for you, please remember you must submit your work by the dates and times listed in the "Assignment" section.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY Oct. 2nd AT 9:00PM!

Assignments:

Day	Assignment	Where to Post	Due
Day 1- Sept. 22 nd	Module A: Building Classroom Community	Discussion- Module A	9/22 9:00PM
	Module B: Welcoming Students & Parents	Submission B	9/22 9:00PM
	Module C: Schedules	Submission C	9/22 9:00PM
Day 2- Sept. 25 th	Module D: Virtual Classroom	Discussion- Module D	9/25 9:00PM
	Module E: Infographic	Submission E	9/25 9:00PM
	Module F: Social Media Post	Submission F	9/25 9:00PM
Day 3- Sept. 29 th	Module G: Newsletter	Discussion- Module G	9/29 9:00PM
	Module H: Classroom Header	Submission H	9/29 9:00PM
	Module I: Bookmark	Submission I	9/29 9:00PM
Day 4- Oct. 2 nd	Module J: Poster	Discussion- Module J	10/02 9:00PM
	Module K: Thumbnail	Submission K	10/02 9:00PM
	Module L: Video	Submission L	10/02 9:00PM

ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY Oct. 2nd AT 9:00PM!

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Module Assignments

Submissions	Points
Introduction	4
Module A: Discussion	8
Module B: Welcome Letter	8
Module C: Schedule	8
Module D: Discussion	8
Module E: Infographic	8
Module F: Social Media	8
Module G: Newsletter	8
Module H: Classroom Header	8
Module I: Bookmark	8
Module J: Poster	8
Module K: Thumbnail	8
Module L: Video	8

Students are expected to participate by responding to the instructor and classmates with quality responses. You are encouraged to share resources and ask questions!

Any assignments submitted after the allotted due date & time will have a point deducted for each day it is incomplete.

Netiquette:

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Something about cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people. The following bullet points cover some basics to communicating online:

- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as different political and religious beliefs, plus just differences in general.
- Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and profanity is also part of being sensitive to your classmates and should be avoided. Also, consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
- Don't use all capital letters when composing your responses as this is considered "shouting" on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.
- Be respectful of others' views and opinions. Avoid "flaming" (publicly attacking or insulting) them as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of getting all different types of points of view.

- Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward, for example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that, you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
- Use good grammar and spelling.

Technical Support:

- *Canvas Support* is accessed through the HELP feature in the lower left-hand corner of Canvas. You can either call Canvas at (844) 408-6455 or use the online chat feature, and both services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- *Technology Support Services* is located in Kellenberg 022 and can be reached via phone: 516.323.4800, email: helpdesk@molloy.edu
- *The Information Commons* is located on the second floor of Public Square and can be reached at 516.323.4817 or email: slewis2@molloy.edu
Check their website for hours: <http://www.molloy.edu/tss>
- Check within the modules for FAQ for each of the technology tools being used.

Molloy University and School of Education and Human Services Policies and Supports:

Expectations of Academic Integrity for All Students

[Honor Pledge and Academic Honesty Policy](#)

Course Withdrawals

View [Withdrawal Policy](#) for potential financial implications

View [the Academic Calendar](#) and/or the course syllabus for the last day to withdraw dates

Incompletes

[Incompletes Policy](#)

Health and Wellness

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Counseling Center \(SCC\)](#)

Center for Access and Disability (Access)

[Center for Access and Disability](#)

Technical Support

[Student Account, Technology and Canvas](#)

Ally for Canvas

[Supportive Tools and Resources/ Ally](#)

Use of Proctorio for Exams/Quizzes (if applicable)

[Proctorio Resources for Students](#)

E-mail Accounts:

Students are to utilize their Molloy e-mail account or Canvas when communicating throughout the semester. Those who use a non-Molloy account may miss important messages. Students are responsible for responding to all methods of communication in a timely fashion, relating to this course. Instructors will respond to emails from students within 24 hours. When/if you email the instructor, please indicate what course you are in with the course number and section.

APA Manuscript Style:

All manuscripts in the field of education are written in the style format of the American Psychological Association. Candidates in the Graduate Education Programs are required to purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). (2010). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

All papers written in every course must adhere to the manuscript prescriptions defined in this manual.

Communication Procedures & Contact Hours:

I look forward to working with you and guiding you through SEL for the classroom! If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail JRyan3@molloy.edu. I will respond within 24 hours.