

WELCOME TO EDU 5900.43

Implementing the Science of Reading in Elementary Classrooms!

July 14-July 17, 2025

Molloy University

Professor: Kristin Rochford

Course Description:

Literacy is the heart of a student's educational foundation! It is the anchor that prepares students for success, and the importance of literacy in the elementary classroom continues to be highlighted at the forefront for schools today. Together in this course, we will explore the Science of Reading as a body of research that drives effective instruction for elementary teachers. We will work together to expand knowledge on this topic, collaborate on how to effectively deliver such instruction, develop activities that are "SOR" aligned, and that teachers can easily implement into their literacy instruction in schools today.

Canvas Details:

- The course will be offered online through Canvas, our online course system.
- Log-in using your Molloy e-mail username and password
- Click the "Courses" tab (top left-hand side of the page) & select: "Implementing the Science of Reading in Elementary Classrooms" 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!

Monday, July 14th What is the Science of Reading?	-Introductions -Assignment #1 -Discussion #1
Tuesday, July 15th The Key Pillars of the Science of Reading	-Introduction to Final Project -Assignment #2 -Discussion #2
Wednesday, July 16th How can teachers set up their literacy block to be SOR aligned?	-Assignment #3 -Discussion #3
Thursday, July 17 The Science of Reading Impact	-Assignment #4 -Final Project Due -Discussion #4 -Student Reflections

TOPICS OF EXPLORATION:

Day 1:

What is the Science of Reading?

*NYS Literacy Briefs: What are they? What were they driven by?

- Brief 1: Science of Reading: What is it?
- Brief 2: Science of Reading: Debunking Common Myths
- Brief 3: Science of Reading: The Role of Writing
- Brief 4: Science of Reading: The Pre-K Years
- Brief 5: Science of Reading: The Elementary Years
- Brief 6: Science of Reading: The Secondary Years
- Brief 7: Science of Reading: Leading for Literacy

Assignments:

-Day 1 → Student Introductions

-Introduction to the Science of Reading *Podcast Assignment*→

Where we were, where we are, where will we go for our future learners?

Discussion: After unpacking the NYS Literacy Briefs and “The Six Shifts” → How are we shifting our roles as educators to ensure students have the foundation they need to be successful readers and writers?

Day 2:

The Key Pillars of Science of Reading

*These key pillars must be taught explicitly and systematically in schools today:

-Comprehension

-Fluency

-Vocabulary

-Phonics

-Phonemic Awareness

Assignment:

-Introduction to final project (Due July 17th)*

-Students will design an instructional activity demonstrating how they would implement a specific pillar with an “SOR mindset shift.”

Discussion: Students will be introduced to each one of these key pillars individually, and will have the opportunity to elaborate on each pillar.

They will discuss each pillar’s importance and role within our Science of Reading work as educators, as well as within their own personal classroom implementation.

TOPICS OF EXPLORATION CONTINUED...

Day 3:

How can teachers effectively set up their literacy block to be SOR aligned?

What does this look like? Feel like? Sound like?

-Students will understand how data-driven instruction will drive their practice. They will learn that teachers will use differentiated instruction as well as systematic, multisensory, and explicit instruction to effectively use instructional time to get learners to learn to read, as well as read to learn.

Assignment:

Teachers will create activities and materials:

- Exploring AI to create graphic organizers, learning tools, and decodable passages
- Utilizing instructional technology tools such as Canva to create instructional resources and engaging activities that spark and incorporate personal interest
- Using Google Apps to allow for interactive resources to come to life
- Incorporating reading manipulatives for hands-on kinesthetic learning

Discussion: Students will answer the question, “How do I effectively set up engaging and effective routines and “fit” everything in?” How do teachers design activities that incorporate the key pillars and engage students?

Day 4:

The Science of Reading Impact

Why does it matter? Where do we go from here?

Final Project Due: Students will develop a mock literacy block plan, incorporating components of the Science of Reading key pillars, data-driven resources, and as well as effective routines that will allow for student success.

Assignment: Students will create a presentation and will share their mock literacy block, as well as at least 2 resources they plan to use in their classrooms for the upcoming school year.

Discussion: Students will discuss the impact their resources will have on future student success, as well as how the emphasis on this mindset shift will help guide our future learners.

Students will reflect on the course and give feedback.