

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

**EDU 5900-XX- Growing a STEAM Mindset (3 credits)**

Spring 2026

Online: March 2-13, 2026

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Ryan

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Course Description:

What does it take to be successful in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math? By embedding lessons with the positive psychology concepts of growth mindset, grit, character strengths, happiness, and hope, we will empower students to be reflective, critical thinkers. Using children's literature, students will have a common language to explore these ideas. Participants will explore and design STEAM activities that connect to the concepts of the literature and foster a growth mindset. These activities will challenge students, impact their thinking, and promote a positive classroom culture where it's okay to "fail well."

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: "Growing a STEAM Mindset" 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:

- **Analyze** the role of growth mindset, grit, character strengths, happiness, and hope in fostering success within STEAM learning environments
- **Evaluate** children's literature as a tool for introducing and reinforcing positive psychology concepts in the classroom
- **Design** STEAM activities that intentionally integrate positive psychology principles to promote resilience, creativity, and critical thinking
- **Implement** instructional strategies that encourage students to "fail well" and view challenges as opportunities for learning and growth
- **Develop** a common language rooted in children's literature and positive psychology to build a supportive and reflective classroom culture
- **Reflect** on their own teaching practices to identify ways to strengthen student engagement, perseverance, and problem-solving skills through STEAM

#### Course Format:

This course will be offered online through Canvas, Molloy's learning management system. The course will open one week before the start date and close on the last day of class. This section is offered March 2-13, 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 March 13<sup>th</sup> AT 9:00PM!**

Required Text:

*Growing a Growth Mindset: Unlocking Character Strengths Through Children's Literature*  
by Kevin Sheehan & Jessica Ryan

Course Assignments:

Day	Assignment	Where to Post	Due
Day 1- Mar. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Module A: Power of Picture Books	Picture Book Discussion	3/3 9:00PM
	Module B: Growth Mindset	Growth Mindset Quiz	3/3 9:00PM
	Module C: Science	STEAM Submission #1	3/3 9:00PM
Day 2- Mar. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Module D: Hope	Hope Discussion	3/6 9:00PM
	Module E: Technology	STEAM Submission #2	3/6 9:00PM
	Module F: Grit	Padlet	3/6 9:00PM
Day 3- Mar. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Module G: Engineering	STEAM Submission #3	3/10 9:00PM
	Module H: Strengths	Strengths Submission	3/10 9:00PM
	Module I: Art	STEAM Submission #4	3/10 9:00PM
Day 4- Mar. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Module J: Happiness	Happiness Discussion	3/10 9:00PM
	Module K: Math	STEAM Submission #5	3/10 9:00PM
	Module L: The Beginning, Not the End	Reflection Submission	3/10 9:00PM

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY March 13<sup>th</sup> AT 9:00PM!**

Grading:

**Module Assignments**

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](mailto: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](mailto:slewis2@molloy.edu)
- Check their website: [Student Account, Technology and Canvas](#)
- 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](#)

**Email Accounts:**

Students are to utilize their Molloy e-mail account or via 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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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 positive psychology for the classroom! If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail [JRyan3@molloy.edu](mailto:JRyan3@molloy.edu). I will respond within 24 hours.