Early Grade Reading in Developing Countries
Online Courses – Spring 2019

1) Role of Community and Family in Supporting Early Grade Reading
2) How Children Learn Math

Registration opens November 5, 2018

The International Education concentration at UMass Amherst is offering two 12-week online graduate courses, starting January 22, 2019. These are university, for-credit course accessible to practitioners and policy makers around the world.

Role of Community and Family in Supporting Early Grade Reading

Why this course?
This course is intended to help early grade reading project personnel learn about research and evidence-based strategies to improve community and family participation in supporting early grade reading. This course is designed to help participants:

- Explain the importance of community and family engagement in supporting early grade reading in and out of school;
- State how to identify stakeholders such as parents and siblings, PTA members, local leaders and other community members who can play a role in supporting early grade reading;
- Explain evidence-based models of effective community and school relationships in developing countries;
- Identify the factors that can influence community or family’s involvement in supporting early grade reading in the context or setting within which you work;
- State evidence-based strategies for assessing and influencing family and community members’ beliefs about reading acquisition;
- Describe how to employ social marketing approaches to increase community members’ and families’ motivation to support all children’s acquisition of reading; and
- Articulate strategies for working with multiple donors in one community or school

Who is the instructor?
The instructor for this 12-week online course is Dr. James MacNeil, Vice President of the Asia and Special Project Division at World Education. Dr. MacNeil has decades of experience working on literacy and education programs in developing countries.

How do I register?
Participants can register for this course through UMass Amherst Continuing & Professional Education. Tuition for this 3-credit course is currently $474 per credit, or $1,422. There is also a $47 non-refundable registration fee. Prerequisites: a bachelor’s degree and English skills equivalent to 80 or above on the TOEFL IBT (Note: You do NOT need to submit TOEFL scores).
**How Children Learn Math**

**Why this course?**
The purpose of this online course is to introduce you to the ways in which children learn mathematics in the early years. The goal is to prepare you to:

- Develop an understanding of children’s mathematical development from age 3 to age 10.
- Consider the factors that support learning.
- Support the rationale for investing in early grades mathematics.
- Consider the importance of everyday experiences in learning mathematics.
- Find, read, and analyze early grades mathematics initiatives that have happened in your country or region.
- Understand assessments of early grades mathematics, including the Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA).
- Articulate the ways in which problem solving is involved in learning mathematics.
- Design a country profile for early grades mathematics.

**Who is the instructor?**
The instructor for this 12-week online course is Dr. Darrell Earnest, Assistant Professor in Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Earnest’s research explores mathematical cognition in school contexts, with a focus on learning and teaching as well as professional and curriculum development for elementary school and early childhood.

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SEE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE ABOUT HOW TO REGISTER
** HOW TO REGISTER **

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[http://blogs.umass.edu/egrcert/](http://blogs.umass.edu/egrcert/)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTERING

You can register for these courses through SPIRE, the student information system for the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

1. **Create a student record.** Go to [spire.umass.edu](http://spire.umass.edu). On the right hand menu, under Apply/References, click on Non-Degree Enrollment Application. Read the information and click “Continue”. Fill out the online form. Please note that although there is a field for Social Security number, you do NOT need a Social Security number to apply – just leave that field blank. You will receive an email with your NetID and password (this may take up to 3 days.)

2. **Create an enrollment appointment.** Once you have received your NetID and password, log in to SPIRE ([spire.umass.edu](http://spire.umass.edu)) with the NetID and password you received. Once logged in, navigate to Main Menu > Enrollment > Summer/Wntr/Non-degr Enroll Appt and follow the instructions. *(Note: It can take up to one day for SPIRE to recognize your NetID, so if you do not see these navigation options, try the next day.)*

3. **Register for the class.** The enrollment appointment should be available immediately. Register for the class by logging in to SPIRE ([spire.umass.edu](http://spire.umass.edu)) and navigate to Main Menu > Enrollment > Add Classes.

   Search for these classes and add them:

   - *Role of Community and Family in Supporting Early Grade Reading*
     - Course number: EDUC 687R
     - Class number: 21965

   - *How Children Learn to Read Math*
     - Course number: EDUC 690R
     - Class number: 22585

**NOTE: Space is limited**, so please register now to reserve your place.

Feel free to pass along this flyer to others who may be interested in taking the course. Thank you!

**How do I get more information?**
The Early Grade Reading Certificate
Email us: [egrcert@educ.umass.edu](mailto:egrcert@educ.umass.edu)
Learn more in our [Frequently Asked Questions](http://blogs.umass.edu/egrcert/FAQs)