

Teaching Commons

Graduate Students Newsletter

York University Teaching Commons Graduate Students Newsletter, January 2021



New Beginnings

A new year and a new semester bring exciting news. We will be launching a new website at the end of this month, and a variety of new interactive webinars designed and facilitated by our Senior Teaching Assistants! Finally, an announcement about the STAY Symposium.



Supporting Teaching At York (STAY) Symposium

We are excited to offer this annual symposium again, but for the first time in a fully online, asynchronous format, a 5-day challenge! Between Monday May 3rd and Friday May 7th, 2021, you can receive a challenge a day to complete. The challenges will be designed to encourage you to learn something new and create something for use in your future classes. More details will be available over the coming months.

In the meantime, know that if you were working toward the Senior Record of Completion certificate last year, you can use any sessions you attended toward this certificate this year. To earn a Senior Record of Completion certificate this year you just need to attend 4 workshops/interactive webinars between September 2019 and August 2021 (see new interactive webinars below that can be counted toward the certificate!) and complete a challenge a day as part of the STAY Symposium 5-day challenge!

[Here is the link to register for the STAY Symposium](#)



Building Effective TA-Course Director Relationships for Enhancing Student Learning in LA&PS

Monday February 1, 12-1pm EST via Zoom

Do you have open, two-way communication with your course director (CD)? Are you looking for ways to further enhance communication with your course director, and prevent conflict?

In this webinar, participants will be individually filling out an activity sheet regarding what information and support they believe TAs should expect from course directors. Later, participants will try to collectively resolve a hypothetical conflict between a TA and CD related to course structure within small breakout rooms. This webinar will help participants identify the roles and responsibilities they have as TAs and how to fulfill those roles and responsibilities with the help of CDs to improve course structure and maximize student learning.

[Here is the link to register](#)



Are we really “all in this together”? Understanding students’ needs during the pandemic

Tuesday February 2, 1:30-2:30pm EST via Zoom

We are now more than 10 months into the pandemic, which has been a challenging time for course directors, tutorial leaders, and students alike. To ensure the success of our students, it is crucial that we develop a better understanding of their needs and what we can do to better support them. Through the use of breakout rooms and polls, participants will discuss case studies to identify ways the pandemic is creating barriers to students’ ability to learn and achieve academic success and describe how TAs can help them mitigate these challenges.

[Here is the link to register](#)



Pedagogical Methods of Writing Development

Monday February 8, 12-1pm EST via Zoom

This workshop is intended to serve as an opportunity for learning and discussion about teaching students the skills and mechanics of writing. The goal is to broaden our teaching scope and practices, giving special attention to aspects of writing students most commonly struggle with, or student demographics that may need refined instruction such as ESL learners or those with disabilities. The webinar will involve a presentation of useful and/or under-discussed writing pedagogies, also allowing for participatory elements where attendees reflect on pedagogies that resonate with themselves.

[Here is the link to register](#)



Connect with Us!

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on all our upcoming workshops, new resources, and other materials related to teaching and learning.

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Teaching Commons | [\(416\) 736 5754](#) | teaching@yorku.ca

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