

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter APRIL 2021

To view all our upcoming offerings, [here is the link to our events calendar](#)



The Teaching Commons is a positive and safe space where faculty, graduate students, and staff from across our campuses can engage in professional development activities related to any aspect of teaching and learning. We offer a broad range of courses, certificates and other programming as well as various additional services, targeted resources, and support for scholarly teaching. Our team is ready to help you explore best practices and innovative strategies, support program renewals and course design, and offer guidance specific to York institutional priorities. We are here to help connect you to a network of colleagues, scholarly resources and evidence-based practice to explore and develop your teaching in new and unimagined ways.



Instructional Skills for Remote Delivery (Spring & Summer 2021)

During this 2-week online course (approximately 15 hours), participants will work collaboratively in a small group setting to further develop their teaching effectiveness through remote delivery, as well as receiving feedback on teaching strategies and techniques. During the first week of the course, participants will engage in daily synchronous sessions during which they will deliver a 15-minute lesson in real time. The second week of the course requires participants to deliver a second 15-minute lesson, asynchronously. There are no scheduled synchronous sessions during the second week. Participants will receive reflective verbal, written, and video feedback from the other participants who have been learners in the lessons.

[Here is the link to the ISRD registration page.](#)

For additional inquiries, please contact Mandy Frake-Mistak
mfmistak@yorku.ca

Teaching in Focus (TiF) Conference 2021 (May 10 & 11, 2021)

Proposals no longer than 300 words are due by April 9th, 2021.

TiF 2021 will be taking place on May 10 and 11 in a virtual format. Its theme, **Engaged Teaching Wherever We Are**, encourages us to think about teaching far beyond the constraints of physical locations. What goes into crafting an outstanding learning experience, beyond punctual teaching performances located somewhere, includes a lot more: experience, dialogue with students, critical engagement with pedagogy in theory and in application, a dose of creativity and risk-taking, curiosity to investigate one's own practice, and the willingness to share with others our successes and failures – our triumphs and tears.

To submit a proposal, please head to our event website at <https://event.fourwaves.com/tif2021/>, click on 'Submission' in the horizontal menu bar at the top of the page, and complete the fields required.



Crafting Questions for Your Open Book Exam (Thursday Apr. 15, 2021, 11:00-12:30 EDT)

In this session we will provide you with techniques to transform your questions into authentic open questions that target the application of higher-order thinking skills. This workshop is interactive and participative. Participants are asked to bring 3 exam questions that they would like to transform. Because of the interactive and participative nature of the workshop, we will limit the number of participants to 10.

A Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants.

[Here is the link to learn more and to register](#)



12 Days of Assessment–Webinar Series (Thurs., 10:00-11:00 EDT)

Join us during the month of April as we wrap-up our weekly webinar series focused on Assessment. Hosted by two Educational Developers, Eliana Elkhoury and Brian Nairn, these 1-hour webinars will discuss a number of topics all related to assessment. All sessions are recorded for your convenience.

[Please click here to register for any of the sessions.](#)

- April 1: Fun & Creative Assessment
- April 8: Rubrics
- April 15: Feedback
- April 22: Assessment and Academic Integrity



- April 29: Assessment from the Student Perspective

For more information about assessment, or to view previously recorded sessions, please visit our [Assessment webpage here](#).



Creating Rubrics for Humanities Courses (Apr. 23, 2021, 11:00-12:30 EDT)

In this session we will provide you with techniques to create a rubric for your humanities course.

This workshop is interactive and participative. Because of the interactive and participative nature of the workshop, we will limit the number of participants to 15.

[Here is the link to learn more and to register](#)

Online Assignments: Deep Learning through Engaging Assignments (May 3-June 4, 2021)



This course can count toward the [Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning](#).

Rethinking assignments for online learning is a great opportunity to experiment with new approaches, streamline and polish assignment design, and consider how to use assignments to nudge student learning to the next level. In this fully online course, participants will learn by doing through ongoing participation in weekly mini-assignments. Together we will practice creative and efficient approaches to assignment design, apply best practices and pedagogical theory, and troubleshoot common challenges.

[Here is the link to learn more and to register.](#)

Webinar: Maximizing Peer to Peer Engagement in the Remote Environment (Apr. 22, 2021, 12:00-1:00 EDT)



This webinar, facilitated by Dr. Claudia Chaufan, will walk participants through the e-Class website of an advanced course in health policy. The course originally included multiple active-learning, student-centred activities (e.g., flipped classroom and jigsaw team teaching). Given Covid-19, all of them were adapted to a remote learning environment. The adaptation was driven by the goal of maximizing opportunities for students to interact with one another.

[Here is the link to learn more and to register](#)

New Resources for Remote Teaching



As plans for a return to campus continue to unfold, the Teaching Commons has created several resources to support evolving needs & experiences in remote teaching. We encourage you to explore the newly developed resources below, and invite you to connect with your liaison educational developer if you have any questions.

- [Here is the link to Preparing for Teaching Online](#)
- [Here is the link to Alternative Assessments for Remote Teaching](#)
- [Here is the link to the Open Book Exams Toolkit](#)
- [Here is the link to the resource on Alleviating Student Anxiety](#)
- [Here is the link to find your liaison educational developer](#)