

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter MAY 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)

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.

Please head to our event website at <https://event.fourwaves.com/tif2021/> for more information, including the schedule of events and links to join the sessions.



How to Assess Your Students Using Case Study (Wednesday May 5, 2021, 11:00-12:30 EDT)

Case study can be used as an alternative to traditional assessment. During this workshop, you will learn to identify the different types of case study and the different steps involved in creating a case study. The workshop will also include information on how to implement and evaluate a case study assessment.

A Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants.

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



Mastery-Based Grading (Thursday May 13, 11:00-12:30 EDT)

Have you been thinking about grading your students differently? In this session, participants will learn about some of the research on mastery-based grading. By the end of the session, participants will have expanded their knowledge of the dynamics that underpin the mastery-based grading approach and will have considered how or if mastery-based grading can work in their own instructional contexts.

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



Oral Assessments as a Form of Alternative Assessments (Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:30-1:00 EDT)

An oral assessment is a direct means of assessing students' learning outcomes by questioning them. In this session, participants will learn about some of the research on oral assessment in higher education. By the end of the session, participants will have expanded their knowledge of the different forms of oral examination, how to design and how to evaluate an oral assessment.

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

The use of Open Educational Resources as a Form of Alternative Assessments (Thursday, May 27, 2021, 11:30-1:00 EDT)



According to the OER Commons (n.d), “Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse at no cost, and without needing to ask permission.”

These resources come in the form of articles, textbooks, learning activities, and visual media. They often fall under a Creative Commons license that specifies how the resources may be shared. In this workshop, participants will learn about the use of OER in higher education and the different ways that instructors can design assessment around OER.

Stephanie Quail from the Library will join us during this session to inform the participants of the resources available through the York library.

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

Teaching and Learning in Experiential Education – Summer Course Offering



This is a one semester program offered virtually (using Zoom and eClass) to course directors as an opportunity to explore the pedagogy and planning involved in designing, facilitating, and assessing experiential education activities in their courses through a peer-based format. Its main purpose is to provide guidance in the development of an experiential education course or an experiential activity as part of a course. At the end of the course, you will have a personalized action plan to help you with your current or future experiential education endeavours.

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

Open Space for Open Education Event (Thursday, May 6, 2021, 1:00-4:00 EDT)



Open Space for Open Education is an exciting opportunity to discuss and create awareness of open education at York. Join your colleagues to reimagine what education can look like on May 16 from 1-4pm.

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

Taking it Online: Adapting, Updating, or Transitioning Your Online Course (June 14-July 9, 2021)



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

Looking to get some hands-on time as you take the next step with your online or remote teaching? Join us for a fully online crash course in the practical pedagogy of eLearning as we use a range of learning activities to introduce core principles and best practices for online learning. Participants will learn by doing as they apply course

learning to their own course(s) – whether you are updating or revamping an existing online course, moving a face-to-face course online for the first time, or experimenting with blended or hy-flex learning, this course will support you in developing a robust and pedagogically informed learning environment in eClass and beyond.

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

Riipen Platform Available For Use

Riipen is a collaboration platform for experiential learning between post-secondary institutions, educators, industry partners and students. The platform allows all parties in your ecosystem to co-create, manage, assess and report on meaningful experiential learning opportunities efficiently and effectively.

Using the platform, experiential learning opportunities can be embedded through in-class assignments or used to organize larger projects, such as competitions and challenges. The platform facilitates connections between instructors and community or industry partners and provides structure and tools for the implementation of experiential learning activities and projects. As part of the pilot program, we have access to a wealth of resources, including dedicated instructor support from Riipen to help you be successful in using the platform. There is no cost for instructors or students to use this tool.

For more information and to check out the platform, visit the [Riipen website](#) or sign up for one of the monthly webinars that Riipen is offering: <https://learn.riipen.com/info-session/york-university>

Read the [Riipen One Pager](#) to understand how Riipen can help you with integrating experiential education into your courses.

If you would like to integrate Riipen into your course, or simply learn more, the YU Experience Hub can book a one-on-one consultation with York University's Riipen representative: yueehub@yorku.ca

