

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter **OCTOBER 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.



Reflections on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at York University (September 30, 2021, 11:00 am-1:00pm)

As educators, it is important that we reflect, learn, and engage in dialogue about the truths of the Indigenous treaties, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit land claims, and the residential schools system. On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, join others from the York community in discussion and reflection about reconciliation in action.

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

New Teaching Commons Resource: The eLearning Database

Are you itching to peek behind the curtain and see what other instructors at York are doing in their online courses? Thanks to a new database of eLearning examples, now you can! Whether you are looking for examples of online teaching from a graduate seminar or a first-year survey course, from Engineering or English, you will find something to inspire creativity in your own



courses. The eLearning Database is freely available to everyone, and is hosted in a self-enrolment eClass site.

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



Teaching and Learning in Experiential Education (October 5-November 30, 2021)

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.](#)



Teaching Wheels Online (October 7-December 16, 2021)

Interested in seeing how other faculty at York are designing and delivering their online courses? Want to get some feedback about your own online course? Join us for *Teaching Wheels Online*, a peer-observation program facilitated by Teaching Commons staff, in which participants join each other's online or remote courses as guests in order to see different approaches to teaching online in action, share strategies, feedback, and insights with one another, and enhance their own teaching through observation and reflection.

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



Blended and Online Learning Development (BOLD) Institute (October 12-November 30, 2021)

The BOLD Institute is an eight-week, fully online program offered to course directors as an opportunity to gain both theoretical understanding and practical experience with the pedagogy, planning, and hands-on production involved in designing and assessing eLearning activities in their fully online/blended courses.

Registration for this course closes at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 12.

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

Using a Drawing Tablet to Craft Educational Videos (October 12-15, 2021, 10:00 am-12:00pm)



Do you teach complex examples that require visual illustrations? Are you looking for ways other than PowerPoint animations to enhance the visual learning experience for your students? If you answered yes, you might be interested in registering for a new 4-day intensive course that will focus on crafting visual annotations using your drawing tablet. Join award winning Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Chen-Wei (Jackie) Wang as he takes you through his tried and tested method of content delivery.

Participants from all academic disciplines are welcome! This course was first offered in Summer 2021 and faculty members from different disciplines (e.g., math, philosophy) expressed that they benefited much from the mini-tutorials and practicals for their future teaching endeavours.

*Please note that due to the nature of the course, there is a cap of 5 participants. A waitlist will be started if required. If you have any questions, please email Jackie (jackie@eecs.yorku.ca) or Brian (nairn1@yorku.ca).

[Here is the link to view the syllabus.](#)

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

Reboot Your Final: Alternative Approaches to Online Tests and Exams (October 18-November 12, 2021)



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

Looking to rethink your tests and exams for the online environment? Interested in exploring alternative assessments that might replace a traditional final? Join us for a fully online course in the practical pedagogy of alternative assessment strategies for eLearning. Participants will learn by doing as they workshop their own current assessment plans in light of best practices for online and remote teaching.

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

New Community of Practice: Equity, Diversity, Decolonisation, and Inclusion (EDDI) in Teaching and Learning (First Meeting October 14th, 1:00-2:00)

For many of us, 2020 and 2021 have been a time of reckoning for higher education, as comfortable pedagogies have been disrupted in multiple ways. Faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants have all grappled with the



complexities of teaching a diverse student body equitably and inclusively, and with the challenges posed by our collective need to confront systemic oppression, to decolonize our curricula and classrooms, to ensure accessibility in teaching and learning, and to respond to calls for Indigenization. If you are in search of a community of teachers at York in which to collaborate, explore, support, and challenge as we engage in this work of supporting EDDI within and beyond the classroom, this community of practice welcomes you!

This CoP is open to anyone who teaches at York and is committed to building and sustaining a culture of EDDI in higher education. Synchronous online monthly meetings will be supplemented with asynchronous resource-sharing and forum discussion. Attendance at synchronous meetings is NOT required to join this CoP.

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

3M NATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP – Call for Nominations



Have you considered self-nominating or nominating a deserving colleague for the 3M National Teaching Fellowship? This award is Canada's most prestigious recognition of excellence in educational leadership and teaching at the post-secondary level. We celebrated our own Dr. Andrea Davis in 2021 as the newest recipient of this award, but in the 3M NTF history, York has recognized 8 other recipients! The Teaching Commons will not only provide one-on-one support in the writing of your nomination, but they will champion you throughout the entire process.

The application deadline is **February 1, 2022**. For more information about the award and its criteria, please click [HERE](#). If you have a nominee in mind or would like to put yourself forward for this award, please contact [Dr. Mandy Frake-Mistak](#) in the Teaching Commons.