

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter February 2022

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



We are here to support you

We continue providing additional teaching support via our Zoom drop-in hours. Our regularly drop-in hours are available daily:

- On Monday-Friday from 10am-12pm.
- Additional drop-in hours in the afternoon from 1pm-3pm from January 27-February 4.

[Here is the link to the drop-in hours](#)



Join Us for the Experiential Education Symposium on February 2, 2022

The Experiential Education (EE) Symposium showcases experiential education at York and celebrates the achievements of students and faculty who have participated in EE. This multi-disciplinary, annual event will be held on February 2, 2022. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend! This year's event will be held virtually.

[Here is the link for more information and to register to attend](#)



Teaching in Focus (TiF) Conference 2022 – Call for Submissions

TiF 2022 is taking place on **May 11 and 12** with a theme of, **Rest, Renew, Revitalize**, to encourage us as a collective, to pause and reflect on our personal needs before we attend to the pieces of our practice that need or deserve attention. In order to build professional AND personal capacity, we need to first build a positive and respectful community where all are welcome to exchange ideas, provide support, and lift each other up.

To submit a proposal, please head to our event website at <https://event.fourwaves.com/tif2022/pages>, click on the blue 'Submission' button, and complete the fields required.



An Introduction to HyFlex Teaching Webinar

This webinar is the first workshop in the HyFlex Teaching & Learning series and will be co-facilitated by the Teaching Commons and Learning Technology Services. You will be introduced to what HyFlex is (with an emphasis on how it is implemented at York), various models of delivering a course in a HyFlex mode, implications on course design and delivery when teaching HyFlex, and some important technical aspects of teaching a Hyflex course at York University.

Time: February 16, 10:30am – 12:00pm

[Here is the link to register](#)

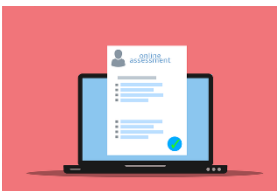


Teaching Wheels Online (Kick-Off Meeting Feb. 16, 1:00-2:30)

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. This program launches on Feb. 16th and runs until April 20th. **Please note that this program is currently only open to faculty and course directors.**

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



Assessing Learning Online: Grading, Evaluation, and Feedback (February 22-March 25, 2022)

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

Research suggests that frequent feedback on learning progress is key to student success in online learning. However, assessing student learning remotely can also be challenging, whether you are looking to give weekly graded feedback or are grappling with how best to ensure academic integrity for a final exam. In this fully online course, participants will learn by doing through ongoing participation in weekly learning activities. Together we will test out strategies for maximizing feedback to students while keeping the workload manageable, explore principles and tools to streamline grading, apply best practices for designing online assessments, and troubleshoot common challenges.

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

Creative Course Content: Instructional Strategies for Online Learning (March 28-April 29)



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

Communicating course content to students is one of the biggest differences between teaching online and in a face-to-face classroom. While the lecture is a mainstay of the traditional classroom, the online environment presents several challenges to this approach, ranging from the technical (inconsistent internet access for students) to the cognitive (student attention dropping during a standard lecture). In this fully online course, participants will learn by doing through ongoing participation in weekly learning activities. Together we will model alternatives to the “standard” lecture, practice creative and efficient ways to convey content to students, apply best practices for designing online instruction of all types, and troubleshoot common challenges.

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

Pledge to Take Part in the SDG Teach in (February 21-March 4)



The annual international campaign [SDG Teach In](#) delivered by [SOS-UK](#) calls on educators, across all disciplines and levels of education, to pledge to include the SDGs in their teaching and learning during this two-week campaign. The Teach In aims to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development.
- Catalyse curriculum reform and test new ideas.
- Embed sustainability and social responsibility across all learning.
- Link teaching, learning, and assessment to local and global concerns.
- Prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to tackle the world's greatest challenges.

This year, the campaign will take place between **Monday 21st February and Friday 4th March 2022**. The SDGs-in-the Classroom Community of Practice is calling on all educators at York (who have the space or interest) to participate by [pledging now](#) using the online form. Together, let’s bring some colour to our classrooms this winter, and help our students see their future roles in social justice, equity as it relates to their program/faculty/discipline.

To learn more, please email Provostial Fellow Cheryl van Daalen-Smith: vandaal@yorku.ca .



Want to provide your students with avenues for getting help from the Libraries, including assistance with research for assignments?

Please consider telling your students about the services below or include the links below in your online course materials.

Library Information/Research Questions Support:

[Bilingual chat](#) – recommended first port of call for undergraduates for general library questions and research help, available 7 days per week, including evenings

[Text/SMS](#) (647-695-8985) – questions, research help, 7 days per week, including evenings

[Drop-In Zoom research help](#) – available from the Libraries' friendly research services team from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday

[Zoom consultations](#) – schedule an in-depth research consultation with a subject or data librarian, especially recommended for advanced undergraduate research projects and graduate students

[E-mail](#) – questions, research help, and more

Coming soon: in-person research help – check the Libraries [Ask A Question](#) web page for updates!