

# Teaching Commons

## Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter January 2022

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.

\*\*Should you be in need of additional support as you (re)work to (re)develop your courses during the Winter term, the Teaching Commons has increased its Virtual Helpdesk hours. We are available daily from 10am-Noon and 1pm-3pm via this [Zoom](#) Link.

### 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.



## Taking It Online - Accelerated Course: Flexible & Adaptable Teaching (January 10-28, 2022)

**\*\*Late Registration Closes Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am\*\***

This course can count toward the Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning.



Looking to get some hands-on time as you update your courses to anticipate the uncertainty of the Winter 2022 semester? This accelerated offering has a special focus on adaptable and flexible teaching strategies that can help keep courses moving smoothly for you and your students. 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, anticipating the return to on-campus teaching and learning, moving a face-to-face course online for the first time, or experimenting with flipped or Hyflex 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.

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## Preparing your Teaching Dossier - Teaching Stream (LA&PS)

The teaching dossier or teaching portfolio is a condensed reflection of your teaching philosophy and accomplishments. It serves as a tool that will provide evidence of your teaching quality and effectiveness, whether it be for the purpose of tenure and promotion or a teaching award nomination. This session, designed specifically for teaching-stream faculty in LA&PS, will identify the purpose of a teaching dossier and its composition as a way to showcase evidence of teaching work, develop some ideas and insights into your own teaching philosophy, beliefs about teaching and explore the Engaged Teaching Model at York as a tool to establish, recognize, and reflect upon your own teaching practices. Attendees will receive all referenced resources and a copy of the slides presented during the session.



Time: **Thursday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:30pm**

Here is the link to register

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## 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 **February 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](#)

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## **Reading for Teaching Winter 2022 – Save the Date!**



A collaborative program co-facilitated by the Teaching Commons and York University Libraries, our Reading for Teaching program will once again be run entirely online in Winter 2022. Join us for an informal, collegial opportunity to engage with colleagues from across campus interested in reading together. This semester-long opportunity is a chance to read collectively and collaboratively with the goal of exploring topics related to teaching and learning.

Our launch event is scheduled for **Friday, January 21 at 10am** on Zoom. A registration form and additional information will be coming soon – watch your inboxes to learn more! If you would like to be added to our participant list now, please email Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer, at [lendersb@yorku.ca](mailto:lendersb@yorku.ca)

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## **The Art of Online Conversation (January 17-February 18, 2022)**

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

Whether we teach in a traditional face-to-face classroom, a blended environment, or a fully online course, many of us make use of online forums to enhance student learning. Achieving an engaging online discussion, however, is easier said than done! In this fully online course, participants will learn by doing through ongoing participation in weekly discussion forums. We will explore strategies for creating effective prompts, apply best practices for facilitating vibrant and enriching online conversations of all types, and troubleshoot common challenges. We will explore how one's approach to online discussion changes over the span of a semester- or year-long course, and integrate scholarship on eLearning into our understanding of effective online conversations.

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



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## York University SDG's-in-the-Classroom Community of Practice (January 28th, 2022)



Are you embedding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in your teaching? Are you curious about how to explicitly include them in your courses? If so, please join the first **Community-of-Practice meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00** via Zoom. We will share examples of how faculty across our campuses are infusing the SDGs, in some way, into their classrooms, and begin to discuss what a Community of Practice might look here at York. For any information, reach out to Dr. Cheryl van Daalen-Smith at [cvandaal@yorku.ca](mailto:cvandaal@yorku.ca)

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## 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.

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## Creative Course Content: Instructional Strategies for Online Learning (March 28-April 29, 2022)



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.](#)

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## **Champions of Reimagined Assessment Project – Seeking Participants**

My name is Eliana Elkhoury and I am an assistant professor at Athabasca University and I would like to invite you to be a part of the Champions of Reimagined Assessment project. Through this project, I am looking to inspire others and humanize assessment by highlighting the different strategies that you use to assess students.



**Who:** I am looking for higher education instructors from all disciplines to be our champions. If you have used innovative, creative, new, different strategies to assess students in minor or major assessments then you are a champion of reimagines assessment and I would love for you to be involved in this project.

**What:** This project will involve you in the collaborative creation of digital content for educators interested in reimagining assessment. We will work together to create brief snippets showcasing your assessment innovations that can be shared on social media platforms to introduce instructors to different forms of alternative assessment. These snippets could take different forms such as a video (less than 2 minutes), images, infographics, or any form of digital content that can posted on social media.

**Time commitment and deadline:** We will work together to find a time that works for you to complete the creation of the digital content. The deadline for content submission is March 15, 2022.

**Email:** I would like to chat with you if you are interested in this project or if you have any questions, so please feel free to send me an email to [eelkhoury@athabascau.ca](mailto:eelkhoury@athabascau.ca). Also please do forward this invitation to instructors who you think might be interested. This project is funded by Athabasca University APDF/SSHRC Knowledge Mobilization Grant. There is a small honorarium for your participation in this project.