

# Teaching Commons

## Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter September 2022

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



### Teaching Commons Virtual Office Hours

Beginning September 1, 2022, our Teaching Commons virtual office hours will once again be run daily. Please see our office hours schedule below:

Monday – Friday, 10am-12pm

The link to access our office hours via Zoom remains the same.

[Here is the Zoom link to access our virtual office hours](#)



### Engagement Strategies for Teaching Remotely (September 12-October 7, 2022)

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

Student engagement is a common goal whether you are teaching in a classroom or online. There are, however, added complexities to engaging students in the remote and online environment. In this course, we will explore the challenges and barriers to engaging students remotely. You will be introduced to the TEC-VARIETY framework, which offers evidenced-based solutions. You will explore this framework on your own, and collaboratively with a small group of your peers, to discover how you can add some TEC-VARIETY to your online or remote course(s) to make them engaging and to motivate your learners.

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



## For Your New Graduate Students

If you have new graduate students, please share with them our open enrollment eClass course [Teaching Assistant Orientation and Resources](#), that offers instructional videos and other resources from across campus to support their teaching. Also, please [invite them to register for ONE of our virtual TA Orientation sessions](#).

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## Reading for Teaching – Fall 2022

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 Fall 2022, with opportunities to explore potential in person or hybrid gatherings. 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 Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-11am on Zoom. [Here is the link to learn more and to register to participate.](#)

If you have any questions please email Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer, at [lendersb@yorku.ca](mailto:lendersb@yorku.ca)

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## BOLD Institute: Blended and Online Learning Development (October 5 -- November 24, 2022)

The BOLD Institute is an eight-week, fully online program offered to course directors, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants 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. Upon completion of this course, participants will be better able to apply sound learning theories and pedagogies to design and build various key components or learning objects of fully online/blended modules. No design experience is required.

[Here is the link to register](#)



## **Reboot Your Final: Alternative Approaches to Online Tests and Exams (October 11-November 4, 2022)**

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](#)

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## **Decolonisation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (DEDI) in Teaching and Learning Community of Practice**

For many of us, the past few years 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 DEDI within and beyond the classroom, this community of practice welcomes you!

Here are some highlights of what we have planned for 2022-2023:

- [Ice Cream Social!](#) Join us on September 22, 9:30-11:00 at the Harry W. Arthurs Common (between Vari Hall and the York U subway station) to learn more about our community and to connect with members. (In case of rain, we will relocate to DB 1014). All are welcome!
- Monthly meetings led by community members (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of most months, 1:00-2:00 ET)
- Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Reading Group
- DEDI in Higher Education themed conference in Spring of 2023

[Join the community of practice here](#)



## Teaching Wheels (October 20, 2022 – February 28, 2023)

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

This year, the Teaching Wheels program will run over two terms (from October - February) to allow for more opportunities for observation, discussion, and reflection. We will also be offering optional regular sessions themed around emerging topics for discussion. More information will be shared with participants as these sessions are confirmed.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer at [lendersb@yorku.ca](mailto:lendersb@yorku.ca) or Robin Sutherland-Harris, Educational Developer, at [robinsh@yorku.ca](mailto:robinsh@yorku.ca).



## Decolonizing the Academy Course: October 2022 – February 2023

This course starts from the position that decolonizing the academy is both necessary and a shared responsibility. It provides opportunities for participants to engage with a curated collection of resources examining what it means to decolonize, implications for teaching, learning and research, and Indigenous perspectives on what is at stake. The course will involve 4-modules and will adopt a flipped learning structure requiring participants to asynchronously watch, listen and read in preparation for synchronous sessions that will involve short talks and much discussion. Asynchronous activity will be available through eClass and synchronous engagement will occur once a month via Zoom from 1:00-2:30pm on a designated Tuesday between October 2022 to February 2023. Please refer below for module titles and dates for synchronous sessions:

Tuesday October 4, 2022: What does it mean to decolonize?

Tuesday November 1, 2022: Decolonization: Doing the Hard Work First

Tuesday January 31, 2023: Canada Does Have a Colonial History

Tuesday February 28, 2023: Learning from the Voices of Indigenous Artists

Participants who complete all four modules will receive a recognition of course completion. Due to the collaborative nature of this course, registration will be limited to foster meaningful engagement.

[Here is the link to register](#)



## Upcoming Library Workshops for Undergraduate Students

### Academic Integrity: How to Stop Worrying and Love Citations

Citing, referencing and academic integrity can be confusing. In this interactive, scenario-based workshop, students will learn about academic cultural norms and why citing is such an important skill for success at university.

### Road to Research Success

Doing well on university assignments requires students to know about library resources and search strategies. This workshop provides the fundamentals in finding, using, and evaluating information.

[Here is the link for more information](#)

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**NEW**

### A New Publication on Online Teaching

We gladly announce a new publication, Enhancing Student Engagement and Structured Learning in Online Discussion Forums: The Worksheet Video Walk Formula by our colleagues, Dr. Agnes Whitfield, Vanessa Evans and Breanna Simpson in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. This article is published in the International Journal of Online Pedagogy and Course Design.

[Here is the link to the article](#)