

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter December 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.



Exploring the Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) (December 7, 2022)

The call for AIF applications is now open. Do you have ideas to investigate or implement in your program, or course? Have you thought about applying for some funding through this AIF? Do you need more information? Please join us for a virtual information session on Wednesday December 7, 3-4pm via Zoom, to learn more about each category of funding, learn about previously funded projects in each category, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.



Course Design Intensive (December 7-14, 2022)

This is a one-week intensive and interactive online workshop to get you started designing or updating your course. The workshop is for course directors who would like to enhance an existing course or create a new course design. Packed with creative and practical advice for developing your course, we will cover principles of inclusive course design, assessment and feedback, active learning and engagement strategies, and provide you with the support and resources you need. Please note this is not about remote design and delivery per se, but is about the basis for all instruction.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.



Supporting Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Classroom (December 15, 2022-March 16, 2023)

York University has a linguistically and culturally diverse student community. Almost 30% of students are multilingual English speakers, many of whom came to Canada from abroad. These students bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences to our classrooms. Navigating this diversity of perspectives and meeting everyone's access needs while teaching subject content can be challenging for instructors and teaching assistants. This 4-part workshop series will introduce participants to practical strategies for supporting multilingual and multicultural students through linguistically responsive, culturally sustaining, and anti-oppressive practices that foster belonging, contribute to academic success, and support diverse student voices in the classroom. Through participation in active learning activities, reflective discussions, and collaborative conversations grounded in the student-centered pedagogical frameworks, participants will explore how to apply these strategies in their own teaching contexts.

Schedule

Thursday, December 15, 2022, 3-4pm – Introduction

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 3-4pm – Fostering belonging for multilingual learners

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 3-4pm – Linguistically and culturally responsive teaching

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 3-4pm – Bringing diverse perspectives and pedagogies together

All four sessions will be held on Zoom.

Join us for a single session or all four! Participants who complete all four workshops will receive a record of completion upon request.

Alternatively, individual workshops can be counted towards the Certificate in Teaching Practices (for Faculty Members and Contract Instructors) or the Record of Completion Certificate (for Graduate Students and Teaching Assistants).

Click [here](#) to learn more and register for one or all of the sessions.

This workshop series is co-organized by the Teaching Commons (Dr. Katharina Pabst, Dr. Ameera Ali, Lianne Fisher) and the ESL faculty in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (Drs. Olga Makinina, Heejin Song, James Corcoran).



Reading for Teaching (Winter 2023)

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 2023, 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, January 19th from 10-11am on Zoom.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.

If you have any questions please email Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer, at lendersb@yorku.ca.



The Art of Online Conversation: Designing, Facilitating, and Teaching with Online Discussion Forums (January 16-February 17, 2023)

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.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.



Fictional Classrooms (Talking About Teaching Through Narrative (January 18-May 31, 2023))

What can we learn about our own teaching practices and identities from fictional depictions of higher education? Join us in “Fictional Classrooms” as we explore and reflect on narratives of education in films and novels, whether they speak to us as learners, educators, researchers, artists, or simply as humans. Monthly meetings will alternate between film and novel, and opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous online engagement will be provided. Films and novels selected will be available through York University Library, Toronto Public Library, and/or other sources.

While this offering may appeal most to those who teach in humanities disciplines (and facilitators Matthew Dunleavy and Robin Sutherland-Harris both come from humanities backgrounds), all York educators and staff are welcome and encouraged to register.

Schedule

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 2-3pm – Kick-Off Session

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 2-3pm – The Paper Chase, dir. James Bridges (1973) (film)

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 2-3pm – Real Life, Brandon Taylor (2020) (novel)

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 2-3pm– The Great Debaters, dir. Denzel Washington (2007) (film)

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 2-3pm – Catherine House, Elisabeth Thomas (2020) (novel)

Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 2-3pm – Madadayo, dir. Akira Kurosawa (1993) (film)

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.



Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals in Teaching and Learning (January 25, 2023, 10:00-11:00)

In this initial installment of the SDGs in Teaching and Learning Workshop Series, we set the stage with an introduction to the SDGs in higher education. If you are curious about what the SDGs might look like in your teaching context, join us for an overview of the basics, including identifying connections between your current approach and the SDGs, exploring some relevant examples, and sharing helpful resources. This workshop series is co-developed by the Teaching Commons and the “SDGs-in-the-Classroom” Curricular Innovation Hub.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.



Decolonisation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in Teaching and Learning Community of Practice – Upcoming Events

The DEDI in Teaching and Learning CoP invites you to join us for several exciting upcoming sessions:

Schedule

Thursday, January 26, 1-2pm – Equity and Assessment with Dr. Eliana Elkhoury (Athabasca University)

Thursday, February 23, 1-2pm – Insights from the Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Reading Group

Thursday, March 23, 1-2pm – Connecting with Cora Coady, Indigenous Teaching and Learning Librarian at York

Thursday, April 27, 1-2pm – Arts-based session on creating spaces full of CARE with Patricia Ki (York University)

And watch out for our conference in May!

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register for one or all of these upcoming sessions.



Teaching Wheels (February 13-June 16, 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 February to June) 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.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.

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



Would You Like to Influence Assessment Practices at York?

Following an event about alternative assessments last August, special interest groups (SIGs) are being organized for meaningful discussions and outcomes about specific issues relative to assessment. Mastery Learning, Ungrading, and Peer Assessment are the three topics that have drawn broad interest and we are now seeking additional members.

Each group will be responsible for setting their priorities and work towards three broad objectives:

- Rethink assessment practices at York University in ways that align with learning frameworks that are flexible, equitable, and learner-oriented
- Inform colleagues and influence assessment practices at York, both informally and via formal channels as appropriate
- Reflect on the opportunities and challenges these approaches to

assessment offer relative to EDI and academic integrity

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please reach out to teaching@yorku.ca and indicate which group you would like to join.

[Teaching Commons](#) | (416) 736 5754 | teaching@yorku.ca
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