

# Teaching Commons

## Faculty Newsletter

### Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter January 2023

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.



### **Reflecting on a Semester of Teaching (Online) (Jan. 13, 2023)**

As this semester begins, and the remaining tasks of the last semester are completed, members of the Teaching Commons want to set aside some time with you to support your reflective practice. This active learning session will provide opportunities for you to share with others, in small groups, what went well for you last semester, to discuss pedagogical changes that you may or may not have made, and to reflect on how that went. Also, you might be planning changes for this semester and wish to discuss these with others, or you might be looking forward to seeing how past pedagogical changes manifest on the third or fourth iteration. We will make time for you to reflect individually if that is your present

need. Please come join to talk about reflective practice and how that informs engaged teaching.

Workshop will take place on January 13, 2023 from 1:30-2:30pm via Zoom.

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

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### **The Art of Online Conversation: Designing, Facilitating, and Teaching with Online Discussion Forums (Online) (Jan. 16-Feb 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.

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

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### **Fictional Classrooms: Talking About Teaching Through Narrative (Online) (Jan. 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:**



**Jan. 18, 2:00-3:00** – Kick-Off Session



**Jan. 25, 2:00-3:00** – The Paper Chase, dir. James Bridges (1973) (film).



**Feb. 25, 2:00-3:00** – *Real Life*, Brandon Taylor (2020) (novel)



**Mar. 29, 2:00-3:00** – The Great Debaters, dir. Denzel Washington (2007) (film).



**Apr. 26, 2:00-3:00** – Catherine House, Elisabeth Thomas (2020) (novel).



**May 31, 2:00-3:00** – Madadayo, dir. Akira Kurosawa (1993) (film)

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

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## 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](mailto:lendersb@yorku.ca).*



## Supporting Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Workshop Series (December 15, 2022 – March 16, 2023)

York University has a linguistically and culturally diverse student community. A substantial number of our 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 underscores varying pedagogical needs 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 enhance diverse student voices in the classroom. Through participation in active learning activities, reflective discussions, and collaborative conversations grounded in student-centered pedagogical frameworks, participants will explore how to apply these strategies in their own teaching contexts.

The first session was held in December. You can still sign up for the remaining sessions.

**Schedule:**

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

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

**Thursday, March 16, 2023, 3-4pm EST** – Closing session: Looking back and looking ahead. All sessions will be held online on Zoom.

Participants who complete all four workshops will receive a certificate of completion upon request. Alternatively, individual workshops can be counted towards the Certificate in Teaching Practices (for Faculty Members/Contract Instructors) or the Record of Completion Certificate (for Graduate Students/Teaching Assistants).

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

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



**The Peer-Review Experience (Online) (Jan. 24 – Feb. 7, 2023)**

Instructors at York have several platforms for peer-review available to choose from, including eClass Workshop, PeerScholar, Turnitin PeerMark, and a new pilot offering, Kritik. Whether you are exploring peer-review, -feedback, and -grading for the first time, or you are refining your existing approach, we invite you to join us for an immersive experience as we engage with the pedagogy and practice of peer-based learning. Participants can expect to spend approximately two hours asynchronously engaging in peer-review activities in two online platforms of their choosing, followed by one hour of synchronous online discussion about implications and inspirations for their own teaching contexts.

[Here is the link 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.

[Here is the link 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 is 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!

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



## **Critical Reflection as a Learned/Learning Activity (February 1 & February 8, 2023)**

Students engaged in experiential education activities often benefit from opportunities for critical reflection. These reflection activities can encourage students to make meaningful connections between experiences and course material, while also developing skills in critical thinking, communicating new insights, and using new ideas to inform future actions.

In this workshop, we will engage in discussions and hands-on activities designed to explore frameworks for critical reflection that can be used to help students develop important skills to support their own reflective practice. Activities for encouraging critical reflection will also be explored as strategies to encourage meaningful learning in the classroom.

This workshop will be offered in two formats, once in person and once online (via Zoom).

[Here is the link to learn more and to register for the ONLINE session](#) (**Wednesday, February 1st from 10-11.30am on Zoom**).

[Here is the link to learn more and to register for the IN PERSON session](#) (**Wednesday, February 8th from 10-11.30am on campus (Keele) in room DB 1014 - Victor Phillip Dahdaleh (formerly TEL Building).**)

Look out for our February newsletter for details about our ONLINE and IN PERSON workshops on “Strategies for Meaningful Feedback on Student Reflection”.



## **Experiential Education (EE) Faculty Celebration – Save the Date!**

The annual Experiential Education (EE) Faculty Celebration will be held on Thursday, February 9th from 1-3pm via Zoom. Join us as we showcase and celebrate with faculty colleagues who have designed, facilitated, and assessed innovative opportunities for student learning and reflection. More details and a link to register to attend will be coming soon.





## **Experiential Education (EE) Symposium – Student Applications Open**

Applications for student presenters at the annual Experiential Education (EE) Symposium are open! Students from all years and disciplines are encouraged to apply to share their story at the event, scheduled for Wednesday, March 8th from 1-3pm in the Scott Library Collaboratory. More information and a link to the student application form are available on the event website. Applications close on Friday, January 20.

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



## **Formative Classroom Observations**

The Teaching Commons is offering colleagues who teach at York (Course Directors) the opportunity to participate in a formative teaching observation. This process is not a formal evaluation or assessment, but rather a voluntary and collaborative activity designed to inspire a reflective dialogue on classroom teaching. Observations can be done in an in person (face to face) class or a synchronous (live) online class. You may also wish to add your liaison Educational Developer to your eClass site as an auditor to review the overall organization of your site or a particular eClass activity, or to have the Educational Developer observe any combination of synchronous and asynchronous remote and/or in person engagement.

[Here is the link to request an observation.](#)

For more information, please contact Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer, at [lendersb@yorku.ca](mailto:lendersb@yorku.ca)



## **Call for nominations for the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA)'s Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards (2022-2023)**

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) is once again calling for nominations of outstanding teachers and librarians for our annual Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards for the 2022-2023 school year. Applications are due March 20, 2023.

Please find attached the nomination guidelines and flyers.

1. [2022-2023 OCUFA Teaching Awards Call for Nominations - English & French](#)



2. [2022-2023 OCUFA Librarianship Awards Call for Nominations – English & French](#)

If you are interested in a one-on-one consultation about your application or the award, please contact Matthew Dunleavy, Educational Developer, at [mdunleav@yorku.ca](mailto:mdunleav@yorku.ca)



## **Teaching Wheels 2023 (February 13, 2023 to June 16, 2023)**

Inspire and refresh your teaching in 2023 with Teaching Wheels! Interested in seeing how other faculty at York are designing and delivering their courses? Want to get some feedback about an aspect of your own teaching? Join us for this flexible peer-observation program in which participants observe each other's courses as guests. Together we will take stock of different approaches to teaching practice, share strategies, feedback, and insights with one another, and enhance our own teaching through dialogue and reflection.

This program is designed to accommodate participants teaching in either (or both) the Winter or Spring semesters, whether in online, blended, or face-to-face courses. All peer observations are coordinated to meet the needs of participant schedules. All other program activities can be completed asynchronously online, with options for synchronous online participation throughout.

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



## **Registration Open for eCampus Ontario Free Ontario Extend Program (Jan 30 - Apr 21)**

Full time faculty, part-time faculty, teaching assistants, librarians, instructional developers and/or anyone involved in the delivery of online or technology enabled education is welcome to register for the [Ontario Extend Program](#).

The Ontario Extend Program is a micro-credentialed professional learning program helping educators to explore a range of emerging technologies and pedagogical practices for effective online and technology-enabled teaching and learning.

Offered both asynchronously and synchronously with

sessions in English and French, the Ontario Extend Program offers many options to make new connections with other postsecondary educators in Ontario and share ideas through Community of Practice learning experiences.

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

[Here is the link to the Winter schedule.](#)

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