

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter June 2023

To view all of 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.



Fictional Classrooms: Talking About Teaching Through Narrative (Online) (June 19-August 28, 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. For Summer 2023, we will focus our attention on one novel: Elizabeth Finch (2022) by Julian Barnes. We will meet monthly in June, July, and August, with opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous engagement.

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



What is Educational Leadership (June 20th, 2023)

The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education describes educational leadership as "leading significant transformation in teaching and learning at an institutional, disciplinary, community, and/or societal level. Educational leadership fosters and supports change, and leads to a more inclusive, equitable, and diverse post-secondary education landscape." Join us as we discuss educational leadership at York. Participants will be encouraged to identify their own contributions to educational leadership and create strategies for communicating those accomplishments in teaching dossiers and award applications.

This session takes place on **June 20th, 2023** from **2:00pm-3:30pm** online via Zoom. A Zoom link will be shared via email closer to the session date.

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

This session is part of a series of monthly events supporting faculty who wish to apply for internal or external teaching awards. For more details and dates, please [consult out internal and external teaching award support page here.](#)



EduCATE (Education, Curriculum, And Teaching Excellence) Course Kick-Off (June 29, 9am-Noon)

Registration is now open for Educate. This is a one-year program where you can explore any aspect of teaching and learning by engaging in action research and contribute to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). This course will be offered online and will be made up of synchronous and asynchronous components each have been designed to allow for the utmost of flexibility.

For more information about the course please [click here](#) or contact Mandy Frake-Mistak for more information at mfmistak@yorku.ca.

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



Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) have created a video highlighting the importance and imperative of academic accommodations for students with disabilities at York University. Accommodations can help students succeed academically and improve their overall well-being.

In advancing equity, fairness and the duty to accommodate, the video emphasizes the legal right for students with disabilities to receive accommodations for equitable access and treatment in learning. The script also guides faculty members to support students with disabilities and underscores the importance of maintaining dignity through students' lived experiences. The creation of this video was a collaborative effort involving York students, faculty, and staff.

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



Envision YU: Tools for Student Success

Envision YU: Tools for Students Success is an extensive, web-based series of curricular resources, activities, and support materials you can easily customize to your course learning outcomes and integrate into your class plan without a lot of extra work. Designed to enhance undergraduate courses in any discipline and at every level, from first year introductory courses through to capstones, EYU tools strengthen students' ability to critically reflect on the ways their courses are developing their skills and interests, learn about and use the range of student support services at York, identify and explore interesting intersections between course content and the world beyond the university and develop leadership and teamwork skills through community-focused activities and projects.

Envision YU is funded with the generous support of a multi-year AIF grant which is co-led by Lynda van Dreumel and Carolyn Steele.

For more information or to ask for help on how to Integrate EYU learning modules or resources into your courses, contact Dr. Carolyn Steele steelec@yorku.ca.

[Here is a quick 3 minute video introducing EYU: Tools for Student Success](#)

[Here is a link to the EYU website for instructors](#)

[Here is the EYU Pressbook resource for students \(English\)](#)

[Here is the EYU Pressbook resource for students \(French\)](#)



C4 Wins Innovation Award

The Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom (C4) joined four other teams to win the 2023 Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education's D2L Innovation in Teaching and Learning Award this month. Established in 2012, the D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning, sponsored by D2L (Desire2Learn), celebrates and recognizes up to five post-secondary collaborative teams each year for their innovative approaches that promote student-centred teaching and learning. A big congratulations to the winning team: Danielle Robinson, Franz Newland, Rachelle Campigotto, Dana Craig, Danielle Dobney, Andrea Kalmin, Alice Kim, and Natasha May.

[Here is the link to read about the award, the C4 team, and other winners.](#)

If you would like support for a teaching and learning award, consider [attending out internal and external teaching award supports](#) or reach out to Matthew Dunleavy at mdunleav@yorku.ca for a one-on-one consultation.



Conversations on Science Education Symposium

The Faculty of Science Conversations on Science Education Symposium is taking place on Monday June 12, 2023, from 9 am to 4 pm.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Michelle Hogue, who will be speaking on "*Decolonizing Teaching and Learning in STEM*". Dr. Hogue is Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Indigenous Student Success Cohort (ISSC) program at the University of Lethbridge.

[Here is the form to RSVP and to answer a few pre-symposium questions](#)



Instructional Skills for Remote Delivery (ISRD) (ONLINE) June 26-July 7, 2023

This course is designated for those who anticipate that they will be teaching primarily online courses in the 2023-2024 academic year, or for those who for accessibility reasons are unable to attend an [in-person Instructional Skills Workshop](#). If you are not sure if you should register for this course, please email teaching@yorku.ca

During this 2-week online course (approximately 15 hours), participants will work collaboratively in a small group setting (e.g. 1 Facilitator: 6 Participants) to further develop their teaching effectiveness in remote/online learning environments, as well as receiving feedback on teaching strategies and techniques.

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



Online Assignments: Deep Learning through Engaging Assignments (ONLINE) July 4 – August 4, 2023

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

While some assignments adapt relatively easily to the online environment, others present more challenges, ranging from the technical (managing group presentations online) to the pedagogical (ensuring students get timely and effective support). Rethinking assignments for online learning is a great opportunity to experiment with new approaches, streamline and polish assignment design, and consider how to use assignments to nudge student learning to the next level. In this fully online course, participants will learn by doing through ongoing participation in weekly mini-assignments. Together we will practice creative and efficient approaches to assignment design, apply best practices and pedagogical theory, and troubleshoot common challenges.

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



Course Design Intensive Summer 2023

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.

There are two synchronous meetings during the workshop. Please note attendance at both synchronous sessions is mandatory, and there are asynchronous activities that you will be expected to complete during that week.

The synchronous workshops are scheduled for **Monday, July 31st & Friday, August 4th, 2023 - 10:30 am to 12:00pm**

[Here is the link to register](#)



Have You Engaged in Mentorship with Your TAs? We Want to Hear From You!

The Teaching Commons is in the process of developing a resource specifically focused on the role of mentorship between course directors and graduate student teaching assistants at York University. We aim to develop a series of best practices and offer practical tips and strategies for course directors to implement as they work with TAs in their courses.

If you are a faculty member who has engaged in mentorship with your TAs and would like to share your experiences with us, please contact Andrew Molas at amol15@yorku.ca and let's get the conversation started!