

Teaching Commons

Graduate Students Newsletter

York University Teaching Commons Graduate Students Newsletter, September 2023

Welcome or Welcome Back to the Teaching Commons

The Teaching Commons is a positive 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 learning opportunities including individual workshops and drop-in support, comprehensive courses, certificates, and research related to 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.

Workshops and Events for TAs

The following list of events in September and early October all count toward the [Record of Completion certificates](#).

- Designing your Tutorial, in-person in DB 1014 or virtually via Zoom, Wed. Sept. 13, 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm. [Register.](#)
- Teaching Assistant Course Orientation (TACO), fully online, September 14-28. [Self-enroll in the eClass course](#), using your Passport York credentials.
- Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Series: Introduction, virtually via Zoom, Mon. Sept. 18, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. [Register.](#)
- Marking and Grading Practices, in-person in DB 1014, Wed. Sept. 20, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm. [Register.](#)
- Supporting First Year Students in their Transition and Maintaining Student Retention, in-person in DB 1014 or virtually via Zoom, Thurs. Sept. 21, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. [Register.](#)
- Making Meaningful Connections with your Students, in-person in DB 1014 or virtually via Zoom, Fri. Sept. 29, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. [Register.](#)
- Trauma-Informed Pedagogies Series: Decolonizing, virtually via Zoom, Mon. Oct. 2, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. [Register.](#)
- Teaching with Technology and in an Online Environment, virtually via Zoom, Tues. Oct. 3, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. [Register.](#)
- Participatory Learning: How to Engage Your Students, in-person in DB 1014, Wed. Oct. 4, 10:00 am – 11:00 am. [Register.](#)

Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

We are excited to relaunch this certificate with a new name and the same flexible structure, consisting of two courses that can be taken throughout your graduate studies at York. Each course is approximately 20-hours of your time, offered in both the fall and winter semester. Register for one or both of our fall offerings (below) or [find an alternate format in the winter!](#)

[Register for "How do you know learning happens? - Fall 2023 Virtual Course"](#)

[Register for "How do you know teaching happens? - Fall 2023 In-person Course"](#)



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Certificate in Experiencing Educational Development in Higher Education

We have redesigned a previous course (the Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program) and renamed it! Join us to experience educational development by collaborating with your peers to tackle a challenge or issue in higher education at York University that you choose. The course begins Friday September 22. [Learn more and register!](#)



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Resources and Supports for Teaching at York

- Whether you are a new TA at York, or are experienced, you may wish to [access this open enrollment set of modules on eClass](#) as there are very useful links and information on resources across York University for you and your students.
 - [CUPE 3903 TA Handbook](#)
 - [Introductory Guide for Laboratory Demonstrators](#)
 - [Teaching Assistant \(TA\) and International Teaching Assistant \(ITA\) Handbook](#)
 - Additional resources are available for teaching online or remotely, including [Online Teaching for Teaching Assistants videos](#) and [Teaching Remotely: A guide for TAs](#)
- The Teaching Commons offers daily drop-in hours, Monday to Friday, 10am-11am via this Zoom link: <https://yorku.zoom.us/j/7467955013>. Please introduce yourself as a TA so we can best support you with your teaching!
- For technical support with Zoom and eClass, **Learning Technology Services (LTS)** is also offering virtual drop-in sessions daily (Monday-Friday). [Find information, including hours for each day and a link to the Zoom office hours room.](#)



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Fictional Classrooms: Talking About Teaching Through Narrative

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, television, short stories, and novels, whether they speak to us as learners, educators, researchers, artists, or simply as humans. Monthly meetings will alternate between text and screen, and opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous online engagement will be provided. All our materials will be available through York University Library, Toronto Public Library, and/or other sources.

This year, we will read one longer novel alongside other shorter works/films/television. Registrants are invited to choose between Donna Tartt’s [The Secret History](#) (1992), R.F. Kuang’s [Babel](#) (2022), and Mona Awad’s [All’s Well](#) (2021) to determine which novel we will collectively read.

[Learn more and register.](#)



Connect with Us!

Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date on all our upcoming workshops, new resources, and other materials related to teaching and learning.

Follow and connect with the Teaching Commons on [YouTube](#) and on [Instagram/Facebook/Twitter](#): @YUTeaching

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

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