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.
Course Design Intensive (Dec. 6 – 13, 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 on:

Wednesday, Dec. 6th & Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 10:30 am to 12:00pm

Here is the link to register

Trauma-Informed Pedagogies Workshop Series – Fall 2023-Winter 2024 (ONLINE)

This 10-part workshop series will introduce participants to the topic of trauma-informed teaching and offer practical strategies for supporting students and themselves while developing a trauma-informed classroom. Through participation in active learning activities, reflective discussions, and collaborative conversations, participants will explore how to apply learned strategies in their own teaching
contexts and consider their own personal parameters within their teaching.

Please visit our registration page to view the schedule, learn more, and register.

This workshop series is co-organized and co-facilitated by the Teaching Commons and the Centre for Human Right, Equity, and Inclusion.

Here is the link to register

**New Resources Available from the Teaching Commons!**

The Teaching Commons is pleased to announce the addition of three new entries to the *Food for Thought* series! As you are preparing for the Winter semester, learn more about the importance of [accessibility](#) in the classroom, how you can develop a learner-centered approach to learning via [Fink’s Taxonomy of Significant Learning](#), and how to reconceptualize your [syllabus as a motivational tool](#) to inspire student engagement!

If there is a topic you would like to see featured, or if you are interested in collaborating on developing an entry for this series, please contact Educational Developer Andrew Molas (amolas15@yorku.ca) and Instructional Designer Robert D. Winkler (rwinkler@yorku.ca)
Top 4 Ways You Can Support the Alternate Exam Centre During the Official Exam Period

1. Exam cover pages need to include the following information: course code & section, instructors name, test date & test duration, any aids allowed (i.e., calculator, formula sheets, class notes, etc.) and any other relevant information about the exam that monitors or the students writing need to know.

2. Please email the exam to altprof@yorku.ca as soon as possible and no later than the date indicated on the notification email that was sent to you.

3. Provide the Alt. Exam Centre with a cell phone number for communication purposes should a problem arise, or student has a question.

4. Alternate Exam Centre staff will deliver the final exam to your department main office within 1-3 days after the completion of the exam.

If you have any questions, please feel free to message us at altprof@yorku.ca. It is helpful to put the exam date in the subject line of your email. The Alternate Exam Centre Office is in N145 Ross Building for dropping off exams.

Fictional Classrooms: Talking About Teaching Through Narrative (ONLINE ~ January 18-April 25, 2024)

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.

Here is the link to learn more and to register.

NEW Teaching Commons Webpages: Students as Partners & Learning in Community

The Teaching Commons has added two new pages to our website highlighting our work with students as partners as well as opportunities for our faculty colleagues to engage in peer-based programs. Learn more by visiting our new webpages below:

Here is the link to our Students as Partners page

Here is the link to our Learning in Community page

Call for nominations for President’s University-Wide Teaching Awards

The President’s University-Wide Teaching Awards honour those who, through innovation and commitment, have enhanced the quality of learning for York University students. Nominate someone here
If you are nominator or nominee and would like to chat about an application, please reach out to Matthew Dunleavy (mdunleav@yorku.ca) and Mandy Frake-Mistak (mfmistak@yorku.ca).

Introducing our Student Consultants on Learning and Teaching 2023-24

Thanks to the Academic Innovation Fund (AIF), the Teaching Commons has hired our first group of Student Consultants on Learning and Teaching. The work these Student Consultants undertake is as diverse as the needs of our community: from student-centered syllabi review and classroom observations to resource creation and assessment discussions, Student Consultants work in partnership with Educational Developers to respond to the teaching and learning needs of York students, faculty, and staff.

If you would like to learn more about the Student Consultants or work with them, please fill out this machform here or if you have any questions, you can contact Matthew Dunleavy, Educational Developer at mdunleav@yorku.ca or Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer at lendersb@yorku.ca

You can meet our current Student Consultants on Learning and Teaching by selecting this link to our Students as Partners webpage.
New Faculty Learning Circle

The Teaching Commons is excited to offer a forum to continue the community building started at our New Faculty Orientation events in July and August 2023. A Faculty Learning Circle (FLC) is a collaborative, peer-based group that focuses on learning, connection, relationship-building, and reflective practice. A FLC is a supportive and collegial space where members support each others growth and learning, while also celebrating individual and collaborative achievements. Drawing from concepts of a Community of Practice and a Professional Learning Community, professional learning is fostered within the context of the group, and leadership within the circle is shared.

We will be hosting New Faculty Learning Circles once per month from September to November and February to April. These events will be hosted on different days of the week to account for different teaching schedules. All New Faculty Members are welcome to join! Please suggest topics for future months by copying and pasting this link in your browser: https://forms.office.com/r/g6UNeeDdpu

Here is the link to learn more and to register.

If you have any questions, you can contact Mandy Frake-Mistak, Educational Developer at mfmistak@yorku.ca
Teaching Commons Syllabi & Assessment Library Call for Interest

Stemming from the generative conversations in numerous workshops, courses, and institutes, we are currently in the early planning stages of creating a teaching and learning open access library containing syllabi, assignment instruction/assessment methods, and teaching activities.

If you are a course instructor or teaching assistant willing to share your teaching material with the wider community, please reach out to Matthew Dunleavy, Educational Developer at mdunleav@yorku.ca

TA Mentorship Strategy #4 Invite TA Feedback on the Course Experience

As the Fall semester wraps up, asking for feedback from TAs about their experiences of the course is another way that course directors can support mentorship in the classroom. Given that they often have more direct interaction with undergraduates, TAs can offer key insights into the course structure that reflects the realities of the undergraduate student experience. For example, if an assignment has too many components that leaves students confused or overwhelmed, or if is taking too long for TAs grade assignments in a timely manner, hearing this feedback from TAs directly provides course directors with helpful feedback so that modifications can be made to meet the needs of students moving forward. Through this process course directors and TAs can continue building relationships of trust and transparency and this is
beneficial because TAs will feel acknowledged for their contributions to the course.

**Tips for incorporating this strategy:**
- Ask TAs to review the eClass page to determine whether it is accessible, if the layout makes sense, or to voice concerns that undergraduates may have expressed during tutorials or labs.
- Encourage TAs to provide feedback on course assignments and assessment methods based on their interactions with their students.
- Provide TAs with a chance to suggest readings for the course syllabus.

**Further Reading**

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**AI and Education: A Hands-On Workshop for Course Transformation (ONLINE ~ Jan. 8-Feb. 2, 2024)**

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

Looking to get some hands-on time as you respond to ChatGPT and other generative AI tools in your teaching? Join us for a fully online course in the practical pedagogy of technology-enhanced teaching in the age of artificial intelligence. We will explore a range of topics and resources to determine what this new technology will mean for your course policies, your assessments, and your teaching strategies. Participants will learn by doing as they apply their learning to their own course(s) – whether you are new to generative AI or already using it in your classroom, this course will support you in developing a robust and pedagogically
informed approach to its many facets and implications.

Here is the link to learn more and to register.

**Reading for Teaching Winter 2024 (ONLINE)**

A collaborative program co-facilitated by the Teaching Commons and York University Libraries, Reading for Teaching is an informal, collegial opportunity to engage with colleagues from across campus interested in reading and talking about teaching. Participants will meet between 2-4 times over the term to discuss a common reading related to current challenges, opportunities, and conversations in teaching and learning.

For more information, or to register to participate in our Reading for Teaching conversations, please review our registration form: [REGISTER HERE](#)

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