Teaching Commons
Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter April 2024

To view all our upcoming offerings, <u>here is the link to our events calendar</u>

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 <u>broad range of courses, certificates and other programming</u> as well as various additional <u>services</u>, targeted <u>resources</u>, and <u>support for scholarly teaching</u>. <u>Our team</u> 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.

GenAI: Friend or Foe? A Lunch-and-Learn on Academic Integrity and Assessment for STEM Faculty (HYBRID ~ April 15th, 2024, 12:00-2:00)

Generative AI (GenAI) is a potential game-changer for STEM education, but also a very real threat to academic integrity and many current assessment practices. How can we cope with this double-edged sword? How might we create and administer assessments that are fair, valid, and reliable in the face of GenAI? And how can we use GenAI as a valuable resource for enhancing student learning and engagement?

In this interactive lunch-and-learn for STEM educators at York (particularly those from the Faculties of Science and Health, and Lassonde School of Engineering), we will guide you through these

dilemmas and more. You will gain insight into the current state of GenAI and academic integrity, with a special focus on York's policies and practices. You will also explore strategies for designing assessments that can either prevent GenAI cheating or integrate GenAI as part of the learning process. You will also engage with case studies and discuss with colleagues about how to deal with the uncertainty and opportunity of this transitional moment.

This workshop is co-hosted by Bethune College and the Committee on Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Science, with the support of the Teaching Commons and the Office of the VP Academic. Lunch for in-person participants is generously provided by Bethune College. No prior knowledge or experience with GenAI is required.

Here is the link to register.

Beyond ePortfolios - A Round Table with PebblePad Founder/CEO Shane Sutherland

This event will provide an opportunity to meet Shane and discuss and explore key issues, challenges and opportunities facing higher education worldwide. He will also share examples of use of PebblePad from around the globe as well as examples closer to home in the Lassonde School of Engineering. There will be lots of opportunity to discuss, challenge and explore the key issues, challenges and opportunities higher education face when pursuing a positive student experience and student success.

Host: Shane Sutherland, Founder | CEO | CMM

Venue: Bergeron Room 125

Date: Tuesday April 16th, 2024, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

RSVP: Click here to Register

eLearning Foundations: Designing your Blueprint (ONLINE ~ May 6-31, 2024)

**Note: This course was formerly titled "Taking it Online"

In search of some hands-on time for taking the next step with the online elements of your teaching? This comprehensive online course invites you to roll up your sleeves and dive deep into the architecture of effective eLearning. Together we'll lay the foundation, frame the structure, and detail the design of your own eLearning blueprint, covering core principles and best practices for supporting learning online. Participants will learn by doing as they apply course learning to their own course(s) and teaching contexts. Whether you are updating or revamping an existing online course, moving a face-to-face course online for the first time, or experimenting with blended or hy-flex learning, this course is your scaffold to constructing a resilient and pedagogically sound learning environment on eClass and beyond, tailored to your unique educational landscape. This course is actively facilitated by a Teaching Commons instructor, and participants will have the opportunity to raise questions, seek personalized support, and access a wealth of resources via email, online office hours, or the course's eClass platform, ensuring your blueprint evolves from concept to concrete reality.

Here is the link to learn more and to register.

New Resources Available from the Teaching Commons!

The Teaching Commons is pleased to announce the addition of three new entries to the the _Food for Thought_ series! Check out these resources to learn more about ways to enhance digital literacy, incorporate technology enhanced learning in the classroom, and to support students developing 21st century skills

TA Mentorship Strategy #9: Promote Professional Development for TAs

Promoting professional development opportunities is another way that course directors can support TAs in a mentorship capacity. Outside of the wealth of knowledge and experience that course directors can share, encouraging TAs to engage in professional development can support their ability to teach and enhance the learning experience for undergraduate students. By investing time in their own professional development, TAs can acquire additional strategies that they can implement into their own teaching practices. Furthermore, the skills and competencies TAs can develop—such as effective communication, teamwork development, time management, and conflict resolution—are transferable skills that are applicable inside and outside academia.

Tips for incorporating this strategy:

- Motivate TAs to participate in professional development workshops and courses and other events to gain valuable information to add to their set of skills.

- Allocate time within TA contracts for professional development and growth

- Model best practices by engaging in your own professional development as well

Further Reading

Auer, M., Sammons, G., & D'Orazio, D. (2022). How to mentor your TAs and realize the role's full potential. *University Affairs*. https://www.universityaffairs.ca/career-advice/career-advice-article/how-to-mentor-your-tas-and-realize-the-roles-full-potential/