



Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter May 2024

To view all our upcoming offerings, review our **Calendar of Events** [<https://www.yorku.ca/teachingcommons/calendar-of-events/>]



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.



Classroom Observations for Formative Feedback

The Teaching Commons offers 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.

To request an observation, please complete the Observation Request Form

[<https://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=797991>]



Fictional Classrooms: Talking About Teaching Through Narrative (ONLINE ~ May 28-August 27, 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, whether they speak to us as learners, educators, researchers, artists, or simply as humans. This summer we will be taking a relaxed approach to reading one longer novel: R. F. Kuang’s *Babel* (2022). We will meet monthly via Zoom to work our way through the text together.

To learn more and to register, review the sign up form [\[https://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=1077585\]](https://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=1077585)



eLearning Foundations: Designing your Blueprint (ONLINE ~ June 3-28, 2024) **Note: This course was formerly titled “Taking it Online.”

This course can count toward the Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning.

[\[https://www.yorku.ca/teachingcommons/elearning/#Cert\]](https://www.yorku.ca/teachingcommons/elearning/#Cert)

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.

To learn more and to register, review the course sign up form [\[https://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=1013867\]](https://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=1013867)



AI and Education: A Hands-On Workshop for Course Transformation (ONLINE ~ May 24-June 3, 2024)

This course can count toward the Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning.

[\[https://www.yorku.ca/teachingcommons/elearning/#Cert\]](https://www.yorku.ca/teachingcommons/elearning/#Cert)

Join us for a fully online course in the practical pedagogy of technology-enhanced teaching in the age of artificial intelligence. 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.

To learn more and to register, review the course sign up form [<https://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=1014110>]



Join our Community of Practice: Generative AI Pedagogies at York

Calling all York University educators who share an interest in generative AI! Let's connect, collaborate, and share resources, exploring best practices and addressing the challenges and opportunities we face in integrating this technology into postsecondary education. Beyond practical tips and strategies for adapting our teaching, we also foster critical conversations about the pedagogical implications of generative AI.

To join the community of practice, complete the registration form [<https://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=1007171>]



Remediation Support: Study Tips

Our colleagues in Learning Skills Services and the YorkU Learning Commons will be hosting a virtual event to connect students with various academic support services during the remediation period.

Remediation Support: Study Tips.

[<https://www.yorku.ca/disruption-operations/course-completion-resources/>] Connect with various academic support services

during the remediation period as you work toward finishing off your winter classes. Attend this virtual event to hear tips and strategies for studying, assignments, and exams. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions of representatives from academic student services from across York

[<https://learningcommons.yorku.ca/>]. Virtual event. **Thursday,**

May 2, 11 a.m. to noon. Registration

required. [https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qd-2prTgrHdXxCN39-X7_nNBGH8SbOAP0#/registration]



TA Mentorship Strategy #10: Demonstrate a Commitment to TA Success

Demonstrating a commitment to TA success—before, during, and after a course—is another way that course instructors can support TAs in a mentorship capacity. TAs may have goals such as trying out new active learning techniques in the classroom, finding ways to engage with their students on a weekly basis, or setting a commitment to pursuing their own professional development. Strategies for mentorship could include:

- Commending the hard work of your TAs to program chairs and acknowledge your TA contributions at departmental meetings
- Nominating TAs for university-wide teaching awards
- Maintaining connections with TAs after the course ends and continue to support them in a mentorship capacity as they complete their degrees

Teaching Commons | [\(416\) 736 5754](tel:4167365754) | teaching@yorku.ca
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