Teaching Commons News

Check out our Fall line-up & Jump in!

With the fall term well under way we are excited to let you know of our upcoming professional development opportunities. In particular we have launched our Communities of Practice meet up sessions for new instructors and those who teach in first-year courses. Why not sign-up and meet some of your colleagues who are facing similar challenges? In addition to our regular line-up of workshops, we have a few spots available for the Instructional Skills workshop (ISW) which is a three day intensive workshop for instructors of all levels. Finally did you know that most of our courses are now eligible under the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA) teaching certification scheme? Read on to learn more! As always, we welcome your participation and contributions. And we wish you all the best for the upcoming term.

Teaching Innovations: Stories from our faculty…

York University has three major teaching and learning priorities: *Experiential Education, eLearning,* and *the First-Year Experience*. The Teaching Commons has responded by ensuring that we have programming that aligns with these priorties such as the EE@York course, the eLearning@York course, and more recently the Communities of Practice meet-up sessions directed at faculty teaching first-year courses. Periodically we will bring you stories from faculty members who have participated in our courses and wish to share their experiences of implementing what they have learned. . In the first of these, Natalie Coulter shares her EE experience:

Natalie Coulter, Department of Communication Studies Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. Course: Children, Media, Education and Change, AP/COMN 4703 6.00

"When I was first hired by York, I decided to turn one of the classes I was assigned into an EE course. Teaching an EE course was one of the most enriching experiences, of my career. The main project of the course is a Community Engagement Project (CEP), in which the students have to design and implement a specific project for the course's Partner in the Community, a youth centre located at Yorkgate mall called The Spot. The premise of a CEP is that the students have to go to the community to figure out what the project will look like and how it will be executed, as opposed to me telling the students what they must do and what the community needs to be done. While this process is challenging and messy, as students struggle with the fact there is no clear path to completing the assignments, students learn to trust the process and in the end they learn much more about the community than I could ever teach them. The students have completed such projects as redesigning the Spot's website, documenting the past history of the Spot, starting a social media campaign for ASCEND, and developing materials for the SPOT's tutoring programme called "no mindz left behind". The students have also designed and run workshops on bullying, and on media literacy. They learn the valuable skills of project management and team work, as they complete a project for the community, hopefully fulfilling a community need." -- *We first met Natalie at the EE@York course at the TC.*

What have participants said about the Instructional Skills Workshop?

"This was a wonderful experience – I have never learned so much in 3 days!"

"Thank you -- a very profound experience"

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Communities of Practice: Meet-up Sessions

A 'Community of Practice' is a group of professionals who have a shared enterprise and interests, it may include members with varying levels of experience and expertise. New Faculty and those who teach at the 1000 level are welcome to join a Community of Practice, hosted in TEL 1050. Members meet with the same small group of colleagues for 90 minutes once a month to discuss issues of relevance to them. *Registration details:* http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/community-of-practice/

Limited Spots Available in the October ISW!!

Are you looking for a professional development opportunity during the co-curricular days at York in the Fall? Well look no further as we have a limited number of spots available in the Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) this October. The Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) is a Canadian, grassroots, certificate program. During this intensive three-day workshop, participants work collaboratively in a small group setting. This is achieved through a carefully structured approach involving a close focus on the participants' instructional style with peer feedback as well as alternative teaching strategies and techniques. Oct 29th, 30th and 31st, 2014 9am-5:30 pm. York Lanes *280A Registration Details*: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/instructional-skills-workshop/

Courses and Workshops Series

The Teaching Commons provides a range of development opportunities for instructors and support staff who would like to enhance their teaching and make connections with others who teach at York. All are welcome! *Full listings:* http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/professional-development/

Highlights for October:

Copyright @ York: Tools and Tips to Support Teaching Online or Blended Course – October 21, 2014; 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, TEL 1014 Click to register

Academic Literacies – October 23, 2014 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm *Registration:* http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=190456

Experiential Education (EE) 2 – Focus on EE in the Community and the Workplace
Oct 7 @ 9:30 am – 12:30 pm; TEL 1012
Registration: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=152956

eLearning@York Course -- October 8 & November 12, 2014
9:30 am – 12:30 pm, TEL 1014 (Both sessions must be attended).
Registration: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=120743

Assessment – October 10, 2014, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, TEL 1014
Registration: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=192602

Introduction to Learning, Teaching and Assessment – October 22, 2014, 9:30 - 12:30 pm, TEL 1014
Registration: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=145146

eLearning 'Boot Camp' – October 30, 2014; 10am - 3pm (Lunch provided); TEL 2018
Registration: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=161694

If you would like advice on planning your professional development, please email teaching@yorku.ca and someone will be in contact!

NB: A running calendar of our events can be found at: **http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/calendar/**

What have participants said about our courses?

"I found it valuable to learn the language around EE –[it] can be applied to the way I teach"

" I will use it [eLearning @York course] to design on-line course and enhance blended courses"

Did you know...

Info about our SEDA approved Learning teaching and Assessment Program can be found at: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/lta/