

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

September 2017



Welcome Back!

We are excited to begin a new academic year! The Teaching Commons is offering a variety of workshops and events to innovations in teaching & learning. Join us to begin a fruitful and productive year in the classroom.



Teaching Academy

We are pleased to announce a **new course** to be offered by the Teaching Commons in Fall and Winter of the next academic year.

This two semester course will be offered in the form of a monthly face to face meeting plus online activity over a period of 6 months. We are seeking EDC (Educational Developers' Caucus) accreditation for the course to ensure it meets the highest standards of rigour. Using a participant-centred, reflective, activity based approach, participants will investigate the theory and practice of teaching in a Canadian University context. As with all our courses, this will be free of charge to anyone who is a Course Director at York University. Further information and enrolment can be found here:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/courses/teaching-academy/>



iClicker Workshops

Did you know that York University is now supporting an iClicker tool that you can use for **free** in your class (face-to-face and online)? The iClicker tool, REEF Polling, is a mobile teaching platform to engage your students in real time to provide instant feedback and promote active learning. Students can participate using their smart phones, tablets, or laptops.

This 90-minute hands-on workshop is a technical and pedagogical quickstart guide on using Reef in teaching. During the workshop, you will experience the Reef polling from both instructor's and student's perspective. You will set up your Reef polling account and practice adding various activities using Reef. **To take full advantage of the interactive activities in the session, please bring your laptop to this workshop.**

This workshop will be co-facilitated by Teaching Commons and Learning Technology Services. To register, please fill out one of the forms below:

September iClicker Workshop: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Registration: <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=469139>

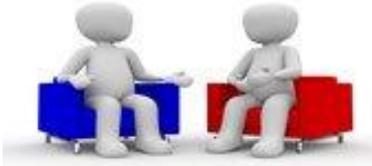
November iClicker Workshop: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Thursday, November 9, 2017
Registration: <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=469682>



Journal Club 2017-18 Launch Event!

Join us in the Teaching Commons Lounge on **Monday, September 18** from 2-3:30pm for the launch of our second year of our monthly [Journal Club](#). Refreshments will be provided as we discuss reading for professional development and officially begin a new year of engaging reading and discussions.

We will be reading [Making the Connection Between Research and Reality: Strategies Teachers Use to Read and Evaluate Journal Articles](#). Come prepared with your thoughts, ideas, and questions!



Fall 2017 Teaching Wheels

At York the Teaching Commons (TC) [Teaching Wheels program](#) is a variation on the very successful Teaching Squares Program. It is designed to support classroom practice by building community through a non-evaluative process of classroom observation and shared reflection.

What is expected of a Teaching Wheel participant

- Attend a 1 hr kick-off meeting and a 1 hr wrap-up meeting
- Observe at least two classes taught by two different Wheel partners
- Reflect on the class observation experience
- Share reflections with the Wheel partner
- Invite at least two other Wheel partners to observe your class
- Share Wheel observations with other Wheel members and other Wheels

At the kick-off meeting, you will form your groups and arrange the observation schedule. To register for ONE of the Fall kick-off meetings:

Wednesday September 20, 2017 from 1:30 – 2:30 in DB 1014

please visit <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=363598>
OR

Thursday September 21, 2017 from 1:30 – 2:30 in DB 1014

please visit <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=403591>



First Year Experience (FYE) in the Classroom Toolkit

The First Year Experience (FYE) in the Classroom Toolkit was officially unveiled at a launch event on Monday August 28 in the Schulich Executive Learning Centre Dining Hall. This AIF supported project, led by Susan Murtha and Diane Woody, saw input and contributions from faculty and graduate students from across York who teach first year courses. We invite you to explore the [FYE Toolkit](#) and join the [FYE Community at York!](#)



Teaching Commons Blog

Did you know the Teaching Commons has a weekly blog? New posts will commence the first week of September:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-commons-blog-teaching-and-learning-at-york/>

Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW)

The ISW is a 3-day intensive experiential learning program designed to develop teaching skills for both new and experienced instructors. Offered within a small-group setting, the ISW affords the participants the opportunity to teach mini-lessons and receive feedback from the other attendees. Participants gain useful theoretical and practical knowledge to enhance their teaching. We still have a few spaces left in the following workshops:



Dates: October 13th, 20th, and 27th, 2017 from 9am to 5:30pm

Location: Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building DB 1009

[Register for the Instructional Skills Workshop on October 13, 20, 27, 2017.](#)

Dates: December 14th, 15th, and 18th, 2017 from 9am to 5:30pm

Location: Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building DB 1014

[Register for the Instructional Skills Workshop on December 13, 14, 18, 2017.](#)

Dates: April 16th, 18th, and 20th, 2018 from 9am to 5:30pm

Location: Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building DB 1014

[Register for the Instructional Skills Workshop on April 16, 18, 20, 2018.](#)

For Your Planning



Putting Together Your Teaching Dossier

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 | 10:00 - 12:00

[Registration](#)

Introduction to Experiential Education

Friday, September 15, 2017 | 10:00 - 12:30

[Registration](#)

Never a Wasted Moment: Becoming Super Efficient and Effective in Course Administration and Teaching

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 | 10:00 - 11:00

[Registration](#)

EE Bootcamps

Friday, December 8, 2017 | 10:00 - 3:00

[Registration](#)

Thursday, April 5, 2018 | 10:00 - 3:00

[Registration](#)

Experiential Education: Reflection and Assessment

Friday, October 20, 2017 | 10:00 - 12:30

[Registration](#)

Course Design Bootcamp

Thursday, December 7, 2017 | 9:30 - 2:00

[Registration](#)

Visit our website for more offerings

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/>