

Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

Summer in the City

Summer is a wonderful time for graduate students to reap the benefits of a campus in full bloom. Whether you are spending your summer months as a TA, or simply desiring to brush up on your teaching skills the Teaching Commons doors are open to support you! Check out our website at:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-all-graduate-students/> for a

full list of our current and upcoming fall programming

designed to support all those interested in sharing and exploring teaching and learning at York.



For our summer issue we would like to provide you with a comprehensive overview of not only our well-established programs for all new, experienced and senior teaching assistant, but also a number of new exciting initiatives, workshops and programs coming this fall. Of special note are new orientation workshops for the International TA (ITA).

But first, check out our current summer line up!

Course Design for Graduate Students

Wednesday July 16, 2014, 10am – 4pm, TEL 1014

This course is specifically for graduate students who will be a course director for the first time or are looking to improve their skills in course design. You will be introduced to the basics of course design, taking you through the content, activity assessment and evaluation development process. The focus will be on a practical approach based on sound theory and evidence.

Registration Now Open:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=121963>

For further information please contact: Natasha May maynat@yorku.ca

Coming to the TC this Fall!!

Calling ALL International TAs (ITAs)! Check out our new ITA Orientation sessions specially designed to address the ITA experience at York. (See page 2 and 3 for details.)

If you have just received a Marker/grader position at York, or you are a TA looking for more guidance on marking and grading practices, then check out our new *Marking and Grading Workshop!* (see page 3 for details)

For the New TA - TA Orientation!!

For all those new to teaching, the Teaching Commons is here to support you as you navigate this critical work within the University. To begin this journey we highly recommend that you attend any one of our TA Orientation sessions offered the first week of September. During this 3 hour session you will be provided with resources and guidance to help you get started as a TA at York University. In this session we will discuss topics such as your role and responsibility as a teaching assistant, how to effectively engage with your course director, strategies to design your curriculum and lesson plan.

TA Orientation Registration now open! Click on the time of your choosing*:

- September 2nd [10am to 1pm](#) or [2pm to 5pm](#) in TEL 1014
- September 3rd [10am to 1pm](#) in TEL 1014
- September 4th [10am to 1pm](#) or [2pm to 5pm](#) in TEL 1014



For further information on TA Orientation please contact: Natasha May maynat@yorku.ca

New this year!!! International TA (ITA) Orientation Registration now open!

If you are registered as an International Graduate Student at York, we have two new sessions designed to address the ITA experience. Click on the time of your choosing*:

- September 3rd [2pm to 5pm](#) in TEL 1014
- September 4th [10am to 1pm](#) in TEL 1009

For further information on the ITA Orientation please contact: Jennifer Bolt jbolt@yorku.ca

*If you are a **Foundations TA in LA&PS** and will be attending the TA Orientation organized by LA&PS specifically for you, there is no need for you to either register for nor attend the above TA Orientations as all of the information from these sessions will be included in the TA Orientation for Foundations TAs organized by LA&PS.

Junior Record of Completion Certificate

Attending our TA orientation is a great way to begin the process of gaining our **Junior 'Record of Completion Certificate.'** This certificate program was designed to honour outstanding Graduate Students for their ongoing dedication to the enhancement and improvement of teaching and learning at York University.

Requirements for the **Junior Certificate** (for new, first time TAs):

1) Attend at least five (5) [Professional Development Workshops](#)*

(*[TA Orientation](#) and the [STAY Symposium](#) can each count as one (1) Professional Development Workshop.)

Please note: This certificate must be **completed within one year**. TAs who do so will be given preference to register in the Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching ([TACT](#)) and the [Senior Teaching Assistant Program](#). Please visit our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-assistant-record-of-completion-certificate/> for more details.

Professional Development Workshops

The professional development workshops are designed to provide support, practical strategies and advice to **ALL** Graduate Students at York University including new TAs. These sessions are facilitated by Teaching Commons Staff, Faculty members from across the university, and participants in our Senior Teaching Assistants program. The topics are designed to offer support at every level of teaching experience. Please visit our website for upcoming workshop offerings for the upcoming academic year. <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ta-sessions/>

For the Experienced TA - TA Certificate in Teaching (TACT) Course

If you are an experienced TA with one or more TAships under your belt, you can build on your teaching skills by enrolling in our TA Certificate in Teaching (TACT) Course. This [SEDA](#) accredited course is for Teaching Assistants to learn more about teaching in postsecondary education. This **free course** will be run in the Fall and repeated in the Winter term. (Please note you need only register for one term). To be eligible you must have been a TA on at least one previous course.

Pre-Registration now open! (To express your interest in enrolling in the TA Certificate in Teaching (TACT) Course, please fill out the preliminary registration form(s) available at:



<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=126578> (for Fall 2014) by August 1, 2014 and <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=127427> (for Winter 2015) by November 1, 2014.

Please note that filling out the above form(s) does not guarantee you a spot in the TACT Course nor is it a registration for the course. It merely indicates your interest in the course and allows us to email you the formal registration form with all of the requirements and information.

Senior Record of Completion Certificate

Experienced TAs are also eligible to receive our **Senior Certificate**:

- 1) Attend at least four (4) [Professional Development Workshops](#) **AND**
- 2) Register and attend the [STAY Symposium](#) which takes place annually in May.

Please visit our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-assistant-record-of-completion-certificate/>

For the Senior TA – STA

The Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) program is a [SEDA](#) accredited course designed for experienced TAs interested in developing teaching and learning with their peers. Preference will be given to those who have completed the TA Certificate in Teaching ([TACT](#)) course. TAs in this group present at our annual Symposium "[Supporting Teaching At York](#)" (STAY).

For more information please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/professional-development/senior-teaching-assistant-program/> for more information.

Course Design for Graduate Students

If you are not able to attend our July Course Design for Graduate students, this session will be repeated. Please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/course-design-for-graduate-students/> for future Fall and Winter sessions as they become available.

New at the TC!

New Community of Practice Space

Have you visited our newly refurbished space in TEL 1050? The area has been designated for all who teach at York (contract faculty, tenure stream faculty, TAs, new and experienced) to meet to share ideas, to discuss teaching related topics and to meet with like-minded individuals, share ideas and discuss teaching related topics.

We encourage you to suggest events and meetings you would like to host in the space via teaching@yorku.ca.



New Marking Grading Workshop coming soon

This new workshop is designed for those who have received a Marker/Grader position as well as any Graduate TA (new or experienced) interested in developing sound assessment and grading practices. This full-day session will address types of formative and summative grading practices, explore validity and reliability issues, as well as offer participants practical strategies for grading with rubrics and supporting the ESL undergraduate student. Table discussions and group sharing activities will allow participants the opportunity to apply their knowledge gained from this workshop by grading sample assignments with their peers.

- September 5th, 2014 in TEL 1014
<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=134152>

Coming to the TC soon! - ITA Workshops and events

At York, we are fortunate to have students from around the world participating in our graduate programs enriching the academic life of the university. The knowledge and background of our International Graduate Student population bring interesting and diverse global perspectives to our York University learning community. Not unlike any new TA, ITAs may experience anxiety and uncertainty with respect to their new role and classroom responsibilities; however, it is not uncommon for ITAs to experience additional challenges and considerations as they transition into their new Canadian academic culture at York University. For instance, one may feel uneasy about going into a class where students speak another language, not to mention the possible differences in methods of pedagogical delivery, grading and assessment and overall curricular design. Furthermore there are many differences within higher educational systems around the world that may require support to understand Canadian educational culture and teaching expectations at York University.

In addition to our new line up ITA Orientations this Fall, the Teaching Commons will be offering new workshops and resources designed to support ITAs for the Canadian classroom experience at York.

Please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-all-graduate-students/for-international-teaching-assistants-itas/> for our evolving list of workshops.

Did you know?

The Teaching Commons has an extensive list of Teaching and Learning Resources of frequently used links and resources by all those who teach at York. Visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/resources-for-tas/>