

Teaching Commons News For Grad Students

Welcome (back) to York University and the Teaching Commons!

A Letter from Natasha May, Educational Developer Lead for TC Graduate Student Programming



Greetings! I cannot believe that a new academic year is upon us already. I would like to say congratulations and welcome to everyone who is just beginning their graduate studies at York University. Whether you will be a Teaching Assistant (TA) or not, you are a valued member of the Teaching Commons. The Teaching Commons brings together like-minded individuals who are interested in exploring and sharing teaching and learning innovation across York University. As graduate students, you will be learning, engaging in research, and embarking on a central element of scholarly life – the passing on of knowledge. As a TA, you will play a vital role in the experience of undergraduate students. In addition to passing on knowledge, you will be helping others to create their own knowledge. Together we can help each other to find new and effective ways to learn, interact with and share knowledge, develop skills and be successful. There are varieties of ways to connect with one another. We offer workshops, accredited courses, TA drop-in hours, as well other events and space if you have an initiative in mind, but need somewhere to meet your colleagues. The Teaching Commons team is based in the Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building, DB 1050, and maintains a virtual presence via our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/>. More than a presence, we are a network of colleagues, collaborations and projects, working across and within Faculties and Support Services.

For New TAs



To complement TA/ITA Orientation, we offer a variety of workshops that can count toward our 'Record of Completion' Certificate. The Junior Certificate is for new TAs and requires attendance to at least 5 workshops during the academic year. The Senior Certificate is for experienced TAs and the requirements include attending at least 4 workshops and the STAY Symposium. We have a number of workshops on offer throughout the academic year. Below are workshops being held in September and are now open for registration. See our website calendar to register:

[Register for the Marking and Grading Workshop for Graduate Students](#) or [let us know your availability for a repeat session](#)

Wednesday September 6, 2017, 10am – 4pm in DB 1009

[Register for the Designing your Tutorial](#) or [let us know your availability for a repeat session](#)

Monday September 11, 2017, 10am – 12pm in DB 1014

[Register for the Effective Strategies for Teaching in Science Labs Workshop](#) or [let us know your availability](#)

Monday September 11, 2017, 1pm – 3pm in DB 1014

[Register for the Teaching Students with Disabilities: Tips for Teaching Assistants Workshop](#)

Tuesday September 19, 2017, 12pm – 1pm in DB 1009

[Register for the Supporting First Year Students in Transition and Maintaining Student Retention Workshop](#)

Monday September 28, 2017, 12-1pm in DB 1014

For Experienced TAs

The **Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching (TACT) course** is a one-semester blended course that will be offered in both the fall and winter semesters. Please note you only need to register for ONE term. This free course consists of 5 face-to-face classes and 4 online modules to be completed in between each class. This EDC ([Educational Developers Caucus](#)) accredited course is for Teaching Assistants to learn more about teaching in postsecondary education, reflect on your experiences, engage in multi-disciplinary discussions about teaching, learn from one another and apply what you've learnt through a mini-lesson cycle with peer feedback and the development of your teaching dossier. For more information, including the in-class dates, please visit the TACT website: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/courses-workshops-and-events/courses/tact/>

[Register for the Fall 2017 Semester of TACT](#) or [Register for the Winter 2018 Semester of TACT](#).

The **Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) program** is a full year (September – May) EDC ([Educational Developers Caucus](#)) accredited course for TAs interested in developing teaching and learning with their peers. Successful completion of TACT is required. Within this course, participants are expected to plan and deliver two educational events, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and acceptability of the events, and facilitate a session at our annual Supporting Teaching At York Symposium (STAY). For dates and more information about STA, please visit: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/courses-workshops-and-events/courses/senior-teaching-assistant-program/> or [Register your interest for the STA course](#).

Should you have any further inquiries please email Natasha May at maynat@yorku.ca.

Other Events and Resources

Journal Club 2017-18 Launch Event!

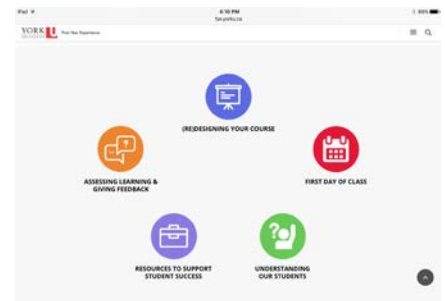


Join us in the Teaching Commons Lounge in DB 1050 on **Monday, September 18** from 2-3:30pm for the launch of our second year of our monthly [Journal Club](#). Refreshments will be provided as we discuss reading for professional development and officially begin a new year of engaging reading and discussions.

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!

First Year Experience (FYE) in the Classroom Toolkit

Are you TAing for a 1000-level course this year? 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](http://fye.yorku.ca) (<http://fye.yorku.ca>) and join the [FYE Community at York](#)!



Check out the TC Grad Student News Monthly Blog: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/> - we are looking for submissions. Send your submissions to maynat@yorku.ca today!

For an electronic PDF copy of this newsletter, see our website: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/newsletter-for-grad-students/>