

Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

Please Help Us Help You!

Did you know that the Teaching Commons Tutors (TCTs) have been offering *TA Drop-in Hours* in which they provide confidential, peer-based support to all of you new and experienced TAs who may be struggling with a teaching issue, or simply wish to connect with other TAs across the university? To make this experience most valuable for you, the TCTs are asking for your input...



Please help us with the design of our website, <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca>, particularly in terms of the navigation. Let us know what information you seek from our website and how easy or difficult it currently is to find. Your feedback and suggestions are most welcome! Let us know how we can make our website easier for you to use by emailing teaching@yorku.ca

Calling ALL TAs,

In anticipation of your attendance to our *TA Drop-In Hours*, we are asking you to take a quick moment to tell us the kinds of topics and/or resources we might make available for your visit. Please take a quick moment to complete the on-line survey available at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=204728> and tell us how we can best serve your TA needs during these monthly drop-in visits.

We look forward to hearing from you because your feedback is important to us!!

Sincerely,

The Teaching Commons Tutors

The Teaching Commons Tutors (TCTs) are PhD students with solid teaching experience at York in diverse disciplines, including the liberal arts, fine arts, sciences, and health sciences. They have completed all of the accredited courses offered by the Teaching Commons, such as the TACT and STA Programs, and can provide teaching support and answer questions about these programs as well.

This service is open to ALL domestic and international TAs across all disciplines. Visit our website at: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ta-drop-in/> to reserve your spot now or simply drop-in and enjoy a FREE cup of coffee with us. The TA Drop-in Hours take place in the Teaching Commons Lounge, located in the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Building, Room 1050, through these glass doors:



December's TA Drop-in hours will be held on
Wednesday December 3rd, 2014, 12pm - 1pm &
Thursday December 4th, 2014, 11am - 12pm
For more information, see the next page of this newsletter!



December's TA Drop-in Hours - Featuring TCT, Holly Clayton

'Codes of Conduct and Crisis Situations During the December Examination Period'

Are you a new TA who hasn't invigilated a final examination before? Find out how it works and how you should conduct yourself with Holly during this month's drop-in hours. Additionally, during the December examination period TAs have to be on the lookout for students in a potential crisis situation. Although the holiday season is supposed to be a happy time to celebrate with family and friends, for some, it becomes incredibly stressful and depressing. Maybe they don't have enough money to go home for a visit, or for presents, or maybe they don't have anyone to go home to. These sorts of situations, combined with the stress of a heavily weighted final exam can be a recipe for disaster for certain individuals. You will have the opportunity to discuss how to help a student in a potential crisis situation with Holly, who has unfortunately encountered this in the past.



Facilitated by: Holly Clayton (pictured above)

To register for the December 3rd session, please visit:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=205941>

To register for the December 4th session, please visit:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=206843>

Record of Completion Celebration

The Teaching Commons is very proud to present the names of the graduate students who have earned a Junior Record of Completion Certificate by attending at least five (5) professional development workshops since only September! The total number of Teaching Commons events that each individual has attended since September appears in brackets next to their name.

Alia Abbas (5)	Alisa Fitisova (5)	Emily McCulloch (6)
Carolyn Carter (12)	Katrina Gaibisels (6)	Aidan Moir (11)
Marta Castilho da Silva (10)	Julián Gutiérrez Castaño (5)	Andrew Molas (11)
Nima Dehgansai (7)	Emma Gunn (5)	Nhi Ha Nguyen (5)
Shirin Dossa (5)	Sharon Angela Henry (5)	Leila Rezaeian (5)
Claire Dykhuis (5)	Victoria Ho (5)	Dasha Serykh (8)
Shoshana Elharar (5)	Sahar Jamali (7)	Alexandra Shyshkin (7)
Alaa Fahmy (6)	Tracy Mack (5)	Sean Steele (7)
		Amy Verhaeghe (5)

In celebration of these outstanding graduate students whose dedication and commitment to teaching and learning at York deserves to be recognized, the Teaching Commons will host our first ever Record of Completion Celebration on Thursday, December 4, 2014. Distinguished guests include graduate supervisors, members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the office of the Associate Vice-President of Teaching and Learning and the Teaching Commons.



Great News!!

We are offering another session of the **Teaching Critical Writing Skills Workshop for TAs** on Monday January 26, 2015, 2-4pm in TEL 1014. Register: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=208447>

The schedule of upcoming workshops is continually growing, so check our website often for updates:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ta-sessions/>

For details on how your attendance at our workshops can earn you a 'Record of Completion' Certificate, please see our website: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-assistant-record-of-completion-certificate/>

Do you know an undergraduate student that has demonstrated leadership at York? Consider nominating them for a **3M National Student Fellowship** NOW! Applications are due January 12, 2015. Detailed criteria and application procedures are available at: <http://www.stlhe.ca/awards/3m-national-student-fellowship/>