

# Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

## Falling into Familiar Routines?



Fall has officially arrived. Although we are still basking in summer-like sunshine, the days are seemingly shorter. For many this means retreating into cozy and isolated spaces where we can focus on looming deadlines of our teaching, marking and grading, and research (amongst others...). In many ways it seems simpler to retreat into a quiet corner as you do your best to balance all that life has thrown your way – in tandem with the leaves being thrown around by the wind outside. Balancing your teaching, research, familial, and work obligations (again...amongst others!) is no easy feat.

Instead of falling into these familiar routines, try stepping outside of your teaching silo and visit us at the Teaching Commons. Consider meeting with a Teaching Commons Tutor who is not only an experienced graduate student but teacher. What can you do to (re)invigorate your teaching self? If you have ideas you wish to explore more fully, come and workshop your ideas with others. What you share has the power and possibility to help others teach more effectively! To learn about additional opportunities available for all graduate students through the Teaching Commons, please visit our website:

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

## International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Orientation

Please join the Teaching Commons for an International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Orientation on Wednesday **October 7, 2015, 11am to 1pm in York Lanes 305**. You will be introduced to the support available to you through the Teaching Commons and will have the opportunity to meet and network with experienced Teaching Assistants and mentors at York, while learning how your unique experiences and cultural distinctiveness is an asset to the York learning community.

During this 2-hour session, you will have the opportunity to meet other new TAs and discuss any uncertainties you have about your role, and develop strategies and solutions for overcoming these uncertainties or concerns. Our goal is that you will leave the orientation prepared to begin your role as a TA with more confidence and knowledge and also know where to turn to for support throughout the year, should you need it.

**To register for the ITA Orientation visit:**

<http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=298864>



## TA Drop-In Hours in the Teaching Commons Lounge

Teaching Commons Tutors (TCTs) will offer drop-in hours for ALL TAs (including future TAs) in our TC lounge space located in TEL 1050. This will be a great opportunity to meet and network with other TAs on campus while also gaining support and guidance from our most senior level TAs at York, who have completed all of the TA support programs and accredited courses we offer at the Teaching Commons. So, if you have a question related to teaching, or you missed a workshop and would like to gain information, strategies and discuss any workshop topic, or would simply like to meet with other TAs or graduate students, including an experienced TCT, please request an appointment.

For more information and to book an appointment, please see our website: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/courses-workshops-and-events/events/ta-drop-in/>

## Workshops and the 'Record of Completion' Certificate

If you are new to teaching at York and do not yet qualify for the TACT course, or are interested in a more flexible teaching certificate program, or are just looking for additional support, 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. The Senior Certificate is for experienced TAs and the requirements include attending at least 4 workshops and the [STAY Symposium](#).

### Supporting First Year Students in Transition and Maintaining Student Retention

Monday October 5, 2015, 12pm – 1:00pm in TEL 1014

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

### Teaching Critical Reading Skills Workshops for TAs

Thursday October 8, 2015, 10:30am – 12pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Teaching Critical Reading Workshop for TAs](#)

### Teaching Critical Writing & Research Skills Workshops for TAs

Thursday October 8, 2015, 1:00pm – 3:00pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Teaching Critical Writing & Research Skills Workshop for TAs](#)

### Teaching Indigenous Content (Open to Faculty and Graduate Students)

Tuesday October 13, 2015, 2:00pm – 4:00pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Teaching Indigenous Content](#)

### Making Meaningful Connections with your Students

Wednesday October 14, 2015, 12pm – 1:00pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Making Meaningful Connections with your Students](#)

### Teaching in a Multicultural Classroom: Interactional Strategies for ITAs at York



## Did you know?

The Teaching Commons has developed a specific set of professional development workshops for graduate students? Each count toward the Junior and Senior ['Record of Completion' Certificates](#).

Learning Technology Services offers a variety of workshops on using and teaching with Moodle. [See a complete list of their workshops](#)

If you are not receiving a copy of this monthly newsletter in an email, you can subscribe by emailing [teaching@yorku.ca](mailto:teaching@yorku.ca)

Wednesday October 21, 2015, 12pm – 1:00pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Teaching in a Multicultural Classroom: Interactional Strategies for ITAs at York](#)

**Participatory Learning: How to Engage your Students**

Friday October 23, 2015, 12pm – 1:00pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Participatory Learning: How to Engage your Students](#)

**Using Active Learning Strategies in Your Teaching**

Monday October 26, 2015, 12pm – 1:00pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Using Active Learning Strategies in Your Teachingp](#)

We are also considering offering additional sessions of our Designing Your Tutorial and Marking and Grading for Graduate Students workshops. [Register your interest for Designing your Tutorial](#) and [Register your interest for Marking and Grading Workshop for Graduate Students.](#)

## Don't Miss a Thing!

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**Future Humanities: Transforming Graduate Studies for the Future of Canada – Grad Student Forum**

**Wednesday October 7, 2015, 1:00pm, 305 York Lanes**

All graduate students at York are welcome to attend this forum although it will be of particular relevance to students in Humanities-related programs. Issues concerning rethinking the current form of PhD training in disciplinary and interdisciplinary humanities programs as well as mental health issues, time to completion expectations, and funding issues. This will be a student-only event, but we intend to bring the discussion to all relevant constituencies at York in the future. FGS will provide light refreshments.

To register, please visit: <https://fgs.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=29090>

If you would like a monthly update of what is happening at the Teaching Commons, we would be happy to subscribe you to our monthly Newsletter for Graduate Students. Please email [teaching@yorku.ca](mailto:teaching@yorku.ca) and we will add your email address to our mailing list.

