New Year – new beginnings

Welcome back! The Teaching Commons team wishes you a happy and prosperous 2018. Speaking of new beginnings, did you know that the TC opened its doors just over 5 years ago? The TC has grown from three educational developers in 2012 to the current complement of six. Over 300 workshops and courses on a variety of educational topics have been offered over the past five years. The 6th annual Teaching in Focus (TIF) conference will be held this year on May 16th and 17th. Check out our website http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ for more information on our offerings.

Share Your Teaching and Learning Experience!

The Teaching Commons is looking for colleagues willing to share a short reflection on a past teaching and learning conference experience. Did you learn about a new, helpful resource or tool? What questions are you still mulling over? Were you inspired to explore new research and are looking for collaborators? An example can be found on our Conference Reports page.

Your short written reflection will be shared on the Teaching Commons website as part of an ongoing feature sharing our community’s insights and conversations from a wide variety of conference experiences. For more information, or to express interest in writing, please contact Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer, lendersb@yorku.ca

January Journal Club

The Teaching Commons is hosting its next Journal Club conversation on Tuesday, January 16 from 2:00-3:30 pm in the Teaching Commons Lounge (DB 1050). Join us at the Teaching Commons for an informal discussion of « Improving student engagement: Ten proposals for action ». Journal Club participants are asked to read the chosen article in advance and come prepared to discuss their ideas, reactions, and questions with fellow colleagues interested in exploring innovation in teaching and learning.
**Winter 2018 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
- Invite at least two other Wheel partners to observe your class

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

- **Monday January 22, 2018** from 1:30 – 2:30 in DB 1014 – please visit [http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=460698](http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=460698)
- **Tuesday January 23, 2018** from 1:30 – 2:30 in DB 1014 - please visit [http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=460815](http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=460815)

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**Writing Circle**

The Writing Circle offers dedicated, on-going writing opportunities for the purpose of making progress on a writing project, preferably but not limited to being focused on teaching and learning in higher education. It is structured to enable writing and reflection about your writing and offers the opportunity for feedback. It takes place one Friday per month, alternating between morning and afternoon. The next session is scheduled for **January 26, 2018** from 9:30 am-1:30 pm in Room DB 1014.

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**Integrating Experiential Education into Your Course**

To better meet the needs of the teaching and learning community at York, the Teaching Commons continues to respond to and reflect on feedback from our faculty colleagues. In response to recent conversations concerning the unfavorable connotations of the term ‘bootcamp’ and to better reflect the goals of the session, the Experiential Education (EE) Bootcamp is now titled Integrating Experiential Education into Your Course. The session will still offer participants the opportunity to explore, in depth, how experiential education can support meaningful student learning while offering interactive activities to support the integrating of experiential education into your course or course activity.

Integrating Experiential Education into Your Course will be offered on:

- **Thursday, April 5th** from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
  Register here: [http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=435519](http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=435519)

- **Thursday, August 9th** from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
  Register here: [http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=505384](http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=505384)
Considering an AIF Category 1 Proposal?

Considering a Category 1 proposal submission for the Academic Innovation Fund (AIF)? Educational Developers at the Teaching Commons are available to support you in considering ideas around eLearning and Experiential Education (EE). Email teaching@yorku.ca to schedule a consultation appointment.

AIF Category II Information Sessions:
Developing a SoTL Project Proposal

The Academic Innovation Fund, Category II is inviting faculty members to submit proposals for a research project investigating an aspect of teaching and learning grounded in their own teaching. For those new to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and/or wishing to learn more about this opportunity, the Teaching Commons is offering 1-hour information sessions in which we will review the proposal guidelines and offer support in generating a research question designed to explore an area of teaching and learning of interest to the applicant. Please note that individual consultations are also available by contacting Dr. Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier (gmp@yorku.ca), educational developer.

These information sessions will take place on the following dates in 1012 DB Building:
- Wednesday January 17, from 1 pm to 2 pm
- Friday, January 26, from 2 pm to 3 pm

To register, please follow this link:
http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=507903

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eLearning Course

This course introduces a systematic process of designing a blended or fully online course. In a hands-on environment, participants will apply learning theories and pedagogies to design various key components of their fully online/blended courses.

This is a SEDA accredited course. For schedules and registration, Please visit: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/courses/elearning-york-course/

eLearning Using Technology to Facilitate Student Engagement

This one day intensive workshop is designed to help colleagues who are interested in eLearning but have limited experience to start integrating technologies in teaching. This workshop introduces and demonstrates how faculty members can take advantage of technological tools in various ways to promote learning using various modes of eLearning delivery. You will have opportunities for hands-on work and to try out various eLearning tools, including some clever ones in Moodle you may not know exist!

Friday, February 23, 2018 from 10 am to 3 pm in DB 2032 Registration
Workshop: Using LEGO in the Classroom

This workshop is designed to showcase new and innovative ways of using LEGO as a teaching tool in your classroom. LEGO is a powerful tool to help develop skills and demonstrate understanding beyond our traditional text-heavy learning activities while also overcoming some common challenges in unlocking our students’ creative potential.

Using a variety of interactive activities, participants will learn new strategies for incorporating LEGO into lessons teaching creativity, communication, and problem solving, as well as using these versatile building blocks for gathering formative assessment data. Participants will also learn from the facilitators’ experiences as both learners and teachers using LEGO in the classroom while discussing tips for how to use LEGO as an important classroom resource.

Please register early if you would like to attend as space for this session is limited. The workshop will be held in DB 1014 on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 from 9 am-11 am.

Registration: http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=502127

Link to workshop details in TC Calendar: http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/event/using-lego-in-the-classroom-2/?instance_id=1917

For Your Planning

Teaching 1000 Level Courses
Thursday, January 18, 2018 | 10:00 - 12:00
Registration

Journal Club
Monday, Feb 12, 2018 | 2:00 - 3:30
Registration

Visit our website for more offerings
http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/

This newsletter is available as a .PDF at http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/tcnewsletter/