

# Teaching Commons

## Graduate Students Newsletter

February 5, 2018

### Our Senior Teaching Assistant Family



As Family Day approaches to kick off reading week, we thought we'd take this opportunity to introduce the newest members of our Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) family, and all of the events they will be hosting this semester. The Senior Teaching Assistant Program: Exploring Educational Development is more than an [EDC accredited](#) course, it is a community that develops and supports leaders in teaching and learning. We encourage STAs to remain connected through our Moodle course, and by mentoring new STAs in addition to their peers whom they mentor through the workshops and resources they create as part of the course.

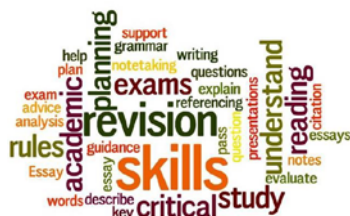


### February 7<sup>th</sup>: Teaching, Research and a Life? Finding the Right Balance

Teaching, Research, A Life, oh my! Up to your eyeballs in tutorial or lab preparation, marking, course work, research etc. with no light at the end of the tunnel? Finding the right balance NOW is essential to your well-being. In this workshop, you will interact with the other participants and develop a plan to follow to ensure you balance all of your responsibilities and leave time for yourself, family and friends!

**Wednesday February 7, 12-1pm in DB 1014**

[Register for Teaching, Research, and a Life? Finding the Right Balance](#)



### February 8<sup>th</sup>: Teaching Beyond the Syllabus

Core Academic Skills such as critical thinking, academic writing, notetaking, and even library research, literature review, and plagiarism require a lot of practice and guidance. How do we incorporate such skills effectively and consistently in our tutorials? Through a mix of brainstorming and small group discussions we will lay the foundation to a toolkit available to both novice and experienced tutorial leaders that will assist us with teaching these core skills.

**Thursday February 8, 12:30-2pm in Ross S752**

[Register for Teaching Beyond the Syllabus](#)



## February 14<sup>th</sup>: Teaching and Handling Controversial Topics in Your Tutorial

Should we have controversial discussions in an academic classroom? If so, what are the strategies to set ground rules for civil discussion before problems arise? To practice effective discussions, in this workshop, participants will be expected to work in groups, choose appropriate topics that suit their students and their subject, and conduct a short debate in which all the possible angles are presented without the TAs' personal opinions.

**Wednesday February 14, 12-1pm in DB 1014**

[Register for Teaching and Handling Controversial Topics in Your Tutorial](#)

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## February 27<sup>th</sup>: Reading Week is Over – Strategies to Maintain and Inspire Student Motivation

Having trouble engaging, motivating and getting your students to participate in discussions in your classroom? Join us for a one-hour workshop where we will explore strategies to inspire and maintain motivation in the classroom. Bring your ideas and be prepared to participate in a variety of activities designed to help you motivate your students. After this workshop, you will have something new to try in your own class to help motivate your students.

**Tuesday February 27, 12-1pm in DB 1014**

[Register for Reading Week is Over – Strategies to Maintain and Inspire Student Motivation](#)

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## February 27<sup>th</sup>: Planning and Implementing Effective Tutorials

In the social sciences, TAs have a great deal of control over the style of their tutorials and how effective they can be for students. In this workshop, you'll have an opportunity to share and build on the experiences of others, in addition to the literature, and brainstorm strategies for planning and running effective tutorials. By the end of the workshop you will be able to explain how to create an effective tutorial.

**Tuesday February 27, 2:30-4pm in DB 1014**

[Register for Planning and Implementing Effective Tutorials](#)

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## May 4<sup>th</sup>: Supporting Teaching At York (STAY) Symposium

The 2017-2018 STAs will be hosting the STAY Symposium on Friday May 4th, 2018, 9:30am-3:30pm in the Life Sciences Building, Room 103. Over the winter term the STAs will be choosing their topics and planning their sessions. [Feel free to let us know if there are particular topics you'd like to learn more about.](#)

Learn how your participation can earn you a ['Record of Completion' Certificate.](#)

[Register for the STAY Symposium](#)

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