

Teaching Commons News

For Graduate Students

Are you beginning to 'Fall' behind? We have the perfect remedy!

In September, the Teaching Commons celebrated its first anniversary. During this year, our graduate student program has grown dramatically as has the demand for our courses (TACT and STA) and professional development workshops. This is an indication of the commitment York University graduate students have to teaching and learning in higher education!

With the passing of the month of September also marks the fact that we are almost 1/3 of the way through Fall term! Our mission is to continue to raise the profile of teaching and learning at York and in the extended York community.

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you – both new and returning graduate students – opportunities for growth and professional development. We also have some very exciting new initiatives on offer. Visit our website for Graduate Students for details on what events we offer: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-all-graduate-students/>

Highlights of our Fall Program

Course Design for Graduate Students November 12th, 10am to 4pm, TEL 1014

Will you be course director this coming academic year and are looking for some ideas, techniques and approaches to designing your course? This course is specifically for graduate students who will be a course director for the first time or are looking to improve their skills in course design. You will be introduced to the basics of course design, taking you through the content, activity assessment and evaluation development processes. The focus will be on a practical approach based on sound theory and evidence. To register please visit: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/course-design-for-graduate-students/>.



Did you know?

You can easily access the upcoming TC events and programs by visiting our calendar
<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/calendar/>

We are here to support and listen. If you have suggestions for new programs, please let us know. Contact us teaching@yorku.ca.

Over 250 new TAs attended a TA Orientation session during the first week of September.

Complete your 'Record of Completion' Certificate

This certificate is to honour outstanding Graduate Students for their ongoing dedication to the enhancement and improvement of teaching and learning at York University. In order to receive this certificate, you are required to register, attend, and actively participate in the TA Orientation and in a minimum of five (5) TA events and/or workshops. These sessions may be run by a Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) or through the Teaching Commons. If you do not attend TA Orientation but would like to earn your 'Record of Completion Certificate' then you must attend six (6) workshops. This certificate must be **completed within one year**. For more information on how to complete this certificate program, please visit: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-assistant-record-of-completion-certificate/>

Professional Development Workshops in Oct/Nov

I'm not just new to York, I'm new to Canada: Strategies for International TAs – October 9, 12-1pm in TEL 1014.

So they expect me to teach what?: An introductory survival session for TAs – October 21, 11–12pm in Bethune College 320. (**NB.** This session is targeted for TAs in Kinesiology and Health Sciences).

What should I do if?: A guide to professional TA-Student Relationships – October 23, 1-2pm in Bethune College 320.

Improving your TA-ing Skills Through the use of Biggs Construction Alignment – October 23, 1-2pm, Winters College 283B.

Let's talk about social inequalities: Addressing critical and often emotionally charged issues in tutorial – October 25, 12-1pm, Founders College 201. (**NB.** This session is target for TAs in Sociology, Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies, Sexuality Studies, Political Science).

Using technology to improve your efficiency for new graduate students in the Faculty of Health - October 30, 12-1pm, Bethune College 320. (**NB.** This session is target for TAs in the Faculty of Health).

Academic Integrity in the Classroom – October 30, 12-1pm in TEL 1014.

How to grade students' classroom participation while creating a culture of writing? – November 5, 12-1pm, Vanier College 010. (**NB.** This session is targeted for TAs in the Humanities).

To register for these and other Professional Development Workshops visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ta-sessions/>

Or by visiting the Teaching Commons calendar at: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/calendar/>

External Links of Interest

For a new kind of Professor, Teaching Comes First

- <http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/new-breed-of-university-faculty-puts-focus-on-teaching-over-research/article14117866/?service=mobile>

How do you talk shop when you're shuttling between campuses?

- <http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/new-breed-of-university-faculty-puts-focus-on-teaching-over-research/article14117866/?service=mobile>

So You Want to Earn a PhD? The Attraction, Realities and Outcomes of Pursuing a Doctorate

- <http://heqco.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/At%20Issue%20Doctoral%20ENGLISH.pdf>

The TC continues to offer numerous courses, workshops, and certificate programs for Graduate Students at all levels of their teaching and professional development. See http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ta_support/ for details

For information about our programs, resources and much more, visit our website at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca>

Here's what graduate students have said about our programs this year:

"Thank you for offering this learning opportunity".

"I will reflect on my own experiences to understand my students and nurture a safe and supportive learning environment".

"I was extremely nervous about TAing – this gave me some real constructive help and info on TAing and problem solving".

