New Beginnings

With the outstanding weather we have enjoyed all summer long, it may feel like we would like it to last forever! If you are feeling ansty about going back to the classroom, read this article, which provides some thoughts around how to approach the first day of classes.

Meet The New TC Instructional Designer: Dr Anna Augusto Rodrigues

The breezier weather that is on its way not only announces the fall semester but also brings cool news at the Teaching Commons. First, meet Anna Augusto Rodrigues, the Teaching Commons’ new instructional designer. Anna has a PhD in Education and has extensive expertise and experience in designing, developing, and delivering technology-enhanced learning. At Teaching Commons, she will collaborate with staff members in Teaching Commons and Learning Technology Services to assist faculty members to develop instructional materials and resources:

- Advise faculty on the use of instructional technology
- Assist the design and development of multimedia artefacts for teaching purposes (e.g., short video and audio clips, graphics, animations)
- Provide consultation on the AODA compliance

If you need assistance from Anna, please contact teaching@yorku.ca

New Offerings

Certificate in Teaching Practices

This certificate offers a flexible framework for further developing one’s understanding of university teaching and integrating a range of teaching strategies focused on student learning. It is open to all course directors. For more information, or to register in the kick-off session, please FOLLOW this link.

Course: Teaching & Learning in Experiential Education

This is a one-semester program offered to course directors to explore the pedagogy and planning involved in designing, facilitating, and assessing experiential education (EE) activities in their courses. They will meet 5 times in the term as a cohort, with 3 core sessions focusing on key elements of EE at York. CLICK here for more information and FOLLOW this link to register.
Teaching Academy Course

This two-semester course will be offered in the form of a monthly face to face meeting plus online activity over a period of 6 months (October-December, January-March). Using a hands-on and participant-centred, reflective, activity-based approach; participants will investigate the theory and practice of teaching in a Canadian University context. **This course is free of charge to anyone who is a Course Director at York University.**

Please visit the [REGISTRATION](#) page for course dates, time and location.

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Teaching Observation Programs

If you would like to participate in a formative teaching observation, the Teaching Commons has two great options for you. One is the **Formative Teaching Observation Program**. Aided by an educational developer, but not in a formal evaluative capacity, this collaborative activity is designed to inspire conversation and encourage personal reflections on classroom teaching. It is open to a course at any level and of any type (e.g. lecture, seminar).

For more information, [VISIT this link](#).

The Teaching Commons also offers **Teaching Wheels**, designed to support classroom practice by building community through a non-evaluative process of classroom observation and shared reflection. The focus is what you as a visitor learns from observing your Wheel partners.

To learn more, and to register for our Fall kick-off meeting, please [VISIT this link](#).

If you want to learn more about these programs, please contact Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer, [lendersb@yorku.ca](mailto:lendersb@yorku.ca).

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Did you say TiF in December?

Exceptionally this year, our teaching and learning conference will take place on **December 5th, 2018**. Authors who had been accepted for the May 2018 iteration, cancelled due to the labour disruption, will be re-invited to participate. Please [check this link](#) for updates.

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Journal Club

**Monday, September 17th from 1-2pm in the Teaching Commons Lounge**

The next Journal Club will be exploring educational development. Join us for an informal discussion of **Family portrait: a profile of educational developers around the world**. 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.

[REGISTER here](#) to attend our September meeting.
The Writing Circle

Friday September 28, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm in DB 1014

The Writing Circle offers dedicated, on-going writing opportunities for the purpose of making progress on any writing project. It is structured to enable writing and reflection about your writing and offers the opportunity for support and feedback among peers. Offered monthly.

REGISTER for our fall sessions here

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eLearning Workshops

2018 Fall Semester eLearning @ York Course

The eLearning @ York is a hands-on course where participants will design different components to draft a course design blueprint for their blended/fully online course. This is a blended learning experience comprising two two-hour face-to-face sessions and two online sessions followed by individual consultations. We have two offerings of this course during the Fall semester.

- Offering 1: Thursday, November 1, 2018, 10 am - 12 pm & Thursday, November 8, 2018, 10 am - 12 pm, both in DB 1014
- Offering 2: Monday, November 12, 2018, 1 pm – 3 pm in DB 1014 & Monday, November 19, 2018, 1 pm – 3 pm in DB 1009

REGISTER here.

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Using Technology to Facilitate Student Engagement

This one-day intensive workshop introduces technical tools that faculty members can take advantage of in various ways to promote student engagement in various modes of eLearning delivery. In this workshop, participants will learn, try out and practice using various eLearning tools. We will also discuss and share various ways that these tools could be used to promote student engagement online.

- Offering 1: Thursday, October 18, 10 am – 3 pm, in DB 1014: Registration
- Offering 2: Tuesday, November 20, 10 am – 3 pm in DB 1009: Registration
Using LEGO in the Classroom Workshop

Tuesday, September 25, 1-3pm in DB 1014

This workshop is designed to showcase new and innovative ways of using LEGO as a teaching tool in your classroom. 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.

Register here

Putting Together your Teaching Dossier Workshop

Thursday October 4, 2018 from 10am-noon in DB 1014

The teaching dossier or teaching portfolio is a condensed reflection of your teaching philosophy and accomplishments. It serves as a tool that will provide evidence of your teaching quality and effectiveness. This interactive workshop will provide you with the tools to establish, recognize, and reflect upon your own teaching practices. Whether you are contract faculty, tenure-track, or new faculty, the Teaching Commons can provide you with the tools needed to (re)write, develop, or update your dossier for evaluation purposes, and in the preparation of materials for teaching award submissions.

REGISTER here

Teaching 1000-Level Courses

Whether you are teaching a 1000-level course or not, the FYE Toolkit is sure to be helpful. In particular, there is information regarding students at York and in your specific Faculty, as well as all of the resources to support you and your students. Other resources on lesson planning, specifically for large classes are included. Please register your interest for a workshop on Resources for Teaching 1000 Level Courses and email maynat@yorku.ca if you are interested in connecting with other 1000-level instructors.

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Exploring Indigenous Issues

Indigenous Canada is a MOOC taught by Dr Tracy Bear and Dr Paul Gareau at the University of Alberta. Open to all, it focuses on indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada, exploring indigenous-settler relations from a critical perspective.

Registration opens September 2: Follow this link for more information.