Welcome Back!

At the Teaching Commons, we are excited to welcome you back to another season of teaching and learning at York. The new year often brings thoughts of new beginnings and new opportunities, and in this context we are delighted to see Dr. Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier transition into her new role as interim director of the Teaching Commons. When interacting with us, you can continue to expect quality programs, workshops, and courses and gain new perspectives on pedagogy. We look forward to helping you!

Teaching 1000 Level Courses

During the first portion of this 2-hour workshop, you will be prompted to discuss the challenges facing course directors in the delivery of 1000-level courses. This will be followed by an interactive session about how to enhance student engagement in large classes. The discussion and reflection will focus on asking effective questions as well as strategies to get students to answer.

Date and Time: January 17, 2019 from 10am-12pm

Location: DB 1014

Here is the link to register

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.

Date and Time: January 30, 2019 from 1pm-3pm

Location: DB 1014

Here is the link to register
January Teaching Commons Journal Club

The Teaching Commons is hosting its next Journal Club conversation about the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) on Wednesday, January 9 from 1:30-2:30pm. Join us at the Teaching Commons for an informal discussion of Self-Disclosure Decisions of University Students with Learning Disabilities. 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.

Here is the link to download the article

Here is the link to register

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Guide

Is universal design for learning (UDL) an integral part of your teaching practice? If yes, the Teaching Commons would like to feature you in a video showing how you are embedding UDL in your classroom. If interested, contact Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier at gmp@yorku.ca for more information.

Experiential Education Symposium – Celebrating EE at York!

The Experiential Education (EE) Symposium showcases and celebrates experiential education at York University. Scheduled for January 22, 2019, this multi-disciplinary event is an opportunity to learn more about EE in its various forms, while highlighting the many supports available to students interested in these unique learning experiences.

If you or your students are interested in attending, more information and a link to register can be found on the event page. Here is a link to the website.

Teaching Wheels – Winter 2019

The Teaching Commons will once again offer the Teaching Wheels program in the Winter term. Teaching Wheels are 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.

Our Winter kick-off meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2019

Here is the link to register
Have you met SCOTAY? Student Consultants on Teaching at York

This academic year, the Teaching Commons has launched an exciting initiative: SCOTAY, or Student Consultants on Teaching at York. The SCOTAYs are undergraduate students with a keen interest in teaching and learning and the enhancement of the student experience. Their role is to provide a student voice into teaching and learning activities at York. This initiative follows a recent push in higher education to increase student participation in areas they have been traditionally excluded (e.g., course design), recognizing that as the primary audience their input is vital to designing effective learning environments.

We are inviting instructors from across the institution to participate in the SCOTAY program to help revitalize one aspect of their teaching with the student perspective in mind. More specifically, the SCOTAYs have been trained here at the Teaching Commons to work with professors who are interested in receiving feedback on their teaching from a student not enrolled in their classes. The SCOTAYs are ready to observe a lecture and provide feedback based on a pre-observation meeting in which you and the student set goals and expectations for the observation. The program is overseen by educational developers from the Teaching Commons who ensure that both the instructors and SCOTAYs receive adequate support throughout the process.

To enroll in the program as an instructor, [here is the link to register](#).

Formative Classroom Observation Program

The Formative Classroom Observation Program is a collaborative activity, aided by an educational developer, 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).

[Here is a link to learn more](#)

For more information, contact Lisa Endersby at lendersb@yorku.ca

Reading for Teaching

Have you read any good books on education lately? If the answer is yes, we would like to have your recommendation included in Reading for Teaching. In this regular feature that will be shared via social media, great books on teaching and learning will be highlighted by the Teaching Commons’ staff and York faculty. If interested in participating, please contact Anna Augusto Rodrigues at aarod@yorku.ca.
Free Resources

If you are having trouble finding copyright free content for your courses, have a look at this reference guide of resources we've created at the Teaching Commons. This guide has links to websites with images, music, clip art and more.

Here is the link to the page.

eCampus Ontario mOOC: Ontario Extend

Ontario Extend is an eCampus Ontario initiative designed to help build capacity for creating technology-enabled and online learning experiences. In January 2019, Ontario Extend is launching a medium-sized Open Online Course (mOOC) as a professional learning opportunity to help educators create technology-enabled learning experiences.

Here is the link to register

Here is a link to learn more about Ontario Extend

Have you read the latest Teaching Commons blog?

The Teaching Commons publishes a weekly blog showcasing and sharing teaching and learning from a diverse group of colleagues across campus. Recent topics have included Podcasting for Teaching & Research and Perspectives from Indigenizing an Indigenous Course.

Here is the link to the blog

If you would like to contribute a blog, please contact Genevieve Maheux-Pelletier at gmp@yorku.ca