### Teaching Commons TA Orientation Program
#### Friday August 30, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:30</td>
<td>Opening Plenary – Introduction to Teaching Commons and your TAship (DB 0016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-10:40</td>
<td>Transition Break</td>
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<td>10:40-11:40</td>
<td>Concurrent Session 1:</td>
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|               | **Session 1**  
|               | **Session 2**  
|               | **Session 3**  
|               | **Session 4**  
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|               | DB 0015       
|               | DB 0013       
|               | DB 0011       
|               | DB 0009       
|               | DB 0005       |
|               | For International TAs  
|               | Daniela Sanzone & Ameera Ali  
|               | Designing your Tutorial  
|               | Sean Steele  
|               | Prepping and Teaching in the Lab  
|               | Nima Dehgansai  
|               | Let’s Talk  
|               | Aidan Moir & Andrew Molas  
|               | Marking and Grading  
|               | Natasha May  |
| 11:40-11:50   | Transition Break                                                        |
| 11:50-12:50   | Concurrent Session 2:                                                  |
|               | **Session 1**  
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|               | Communicating with your Course Director  
|               | Matthew Dunleavy  
|               | Designing your Tutorial  
|               | Sean Steele  
|               | Inclusive Teaching  
|               | Andrew Molas & Ameera Ali  
|               | Let’s Talk  
|               | Daniela Sanzone & Aidan Moir  
|               | Marking and Grading  
|               | Natasha May  |
| 12:50-1:45    | Lunch Break                                                            |
| 1:45-2:45     | Concurrent Session 3:                                                  |
|               | **Session 1**  
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|               | **Session 4**  
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|               | Inclusive Teaching  
|               | Andrew Molas & Ameera Ali  
|               | Prepping and Teaching in the Lab  
|               | Nima Dehgansai  
|               | Let’s Problem Solve  
|               | Sean Steele & Daniele Sanzone  
|               | Marking and Grading  
|               | Natasha May  |
| 2:45-2:50     | Transition Break                                                        |
| 2:50-3:30     | Closing Plenary – University Resources (DB 0016)                        |
Session Descriptions
(in alphabetical order by session title)

Communicating with your Course Director
As you begin to prepare for your TAship, consider what it is that you need to know about the kind of work you will be doing. Your Course Director will be your first point of contact in order to help you define your role and responsibilities. Open communication should be maintained to ensure that you are fulfilling your roles and responsibilities as they see fit, and to ensure your needs are being met. It is helpful to take time at the beginning of the term to get a clear idea of what will be expected of you throughout the term and to complete your TA workload form. This session, open to all TA’s, is to help prepare you for this most important conversation, to start you on the right foot to maintain a productive working relationship throughout the term / year.

Designing your Tutorial
While seemingly overwhelming, the work of planning and mapping out what you will do with your students over the term is achievable, although you will find yourself negotiating many roles – often simultaneously. This session will provide you with a general sense of what you should be doing as you get ready for your first day of teaching and beyond. We will provide one particular model, called the BOPPPS model, that you may follow or adapt when preparing your tutorials and planning your lessons.

For International TAs
This session is meant to connect international graduate students who will be TAing, to help you form a community, and learn about the Canadian classroom experience at York. During the session you will have the opportunity to share, discuss and explore how your nationality and cultural distinctiveness can become an asset to the York learning community in your new role as an International TA (ITA).

Inclusive Teaching
Students with disabilities add to the diversity of the university community. As a TA at York you may encounter students with physical, learning, medical or mental health disabilities; often these students have academic accommodations. After a brief review of the university’s policies concerning academic accommodations, we will discuss strategies for maintaining an inclusive classroom by introducing universal design for learning. You will have the opportunity to brainstorm, with your peers, different ways to implement the principles of universal design for a particular scenario.
Let’s Problem Solve
Are you wondering how to facilitate effective group work, or balance your own workload? Are you curious of how to effectively respond to student concerns in courses or during office hours? Do you anticipate dealing with academic dishonesty from students, or students that don’t come prepared for class? In this scenario-based sessions you will have the opportunity to discuss some of these issues with a small group of your peers and brainstorm solutions with guidance from experienced TA’s.

Let’s Talk
Do you have a burning issue, concern or fear regarding your role as a TA? During this session you will have the opportunity to anonymously contribute a topic for discussion among a small group of your peers. You will likely discover that many of your colleagues share the same concerns and uncertainties you have in your role as a TA at York. Together you will brainstorm answers and strategies for dealing with these uncertainties with support and guidance from experienced TA’s.

Marking and Grading
This session will give a brief overview of marking and grading principles, such as types of formative and summative grading principles, validity and reliability issues, as well as offer participants practical strategies for grading with rubrics. Most of the workshop will be dedicated to marking and grading practices as participants will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by grading sample assignments with their peers. The focus will be on the process of grading, not on content, as you will be grading a short answer response outside of your discipline.

Prepping and Teaching in the Lab
This informative workshop will address the issues of lab specific challenges for TA’s. The objectives of the workshop are to improve pre-lab talks, demonstration skills and augment the interest of undergraduate students in the lab. Also, this workshop will provide practical tips, strategies and resources to effectively engage students during the lab, and organize time in the lab. This workshop will provide an opportunity to meet and discuss your positive and negative experiences with other TAs teaching in a lab.
To learn more about what the Teaching Commons offers, please check out our website: https://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/ and follow us on Twitter: @YUTeaching

To earn a Junior Record of Completion certificate, simply register for and attend 5 workshops offered for graduate students in the Teaching Commons – TA Orientation Day counts as one workshop, so you need only register and attend 4 more workshops for the certificate! We will send you an email after the orientation with a list of all workshops currently on offer.

To earn a Senior Record of Completion certificate, simply register for and attend 4 workshops for graduate students in the Teaching Commons and the STAY Symposium on Friday May 1, 2020 – TA Orientation Day counts as one workshop, so you need only register and attend 3 more workshops and the symposium for the certificate! We will send you an email after the orientation with a list of all workshops currently on offer.

Both certificates must be earned within one academic year (September to August). Sessions attended this year cannot be counted toward a certificate in subsequent years.

If you have questions throughout the year and would like some one-on-one, just in time support, book a TA drop-in appointment or mail maynat@yorku.ca.