The Teaching Commons is a positive and safe space where faculty, graduate students, and staff from across our campuses can engage in professional development activities related to any aspect of teaching and learning. We offer a broad range of learning opportunities including individual workshops and consultations, comprehensive courses, certificates, and research related to teaching. Our team is ready to help you explore best practices and innovative strategies, support program renewals and course design, and offer guidance specific to York institutional priorities. We are here to help connect you to a network of colleagues, scholarly resources and evidence-based practice to explore and develop your teaching in new and unimagined ways.

Experiential Education in the Online Environment: An Open Conversation

Are you thinking about how to adapt your planned EE activities to the remote environment? Do you have questions about how to facilitate online opportunities for critical reflection? Join representatives from the Teaching Commons and the YU Experience Hub for a facilitated discussion about remote EE. This interactive session is an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about the supports & resources available to support your work in remote experiential education.

Topics for discussion can include: employer outreach, risk management or technology to support your remote EE, and using technology to facilitate remote EE experiences and critical reflection.

This session is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17 from 1-2:30pm on Zoom. Additional details will be emailed to all registered participants closer to the date.

Here is the link to learn more and to register
Inclusive Design: Building Principles of Equity into Teaching and Learning (Feb. 3-Apr. 16, 2021)
This is a fully online course offered to course directors as an opportunity to integrate pedagogical principles of equity and inclusion within their own teaching contexts (whether online/remote, blended, or face-to-face) through a peer-based format. With an emphasis on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), we will explore how to increase the flexibility and accessibility of our courses by applying a framework for multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement. A key goal of this course is to provide opportunities for faculty to address issues of accessibility, inclusivity, diversity, and academic honesty.

Here is the link to learn more and to register

Taking it Online: Making the Transition from the Face-to-Face Classroom (Nov. 16-Dec. 11, 2020)
Looking to get some hands-on practice with moving face-to-face courses to the online environment? Join us for a fully online crash course in the practical pedagogy of eLearning for beginners as we use a range of online learning activities to introduce core principles and best practices for online learning. Participants will learn by doing as they transform a face-to-face course into a robust and pedagogically informed online learning environment in eClass. This course is actively facilitated by a Teaching Commons instructor, and participants will be able to ask questions and access further support and resources by email, in online office hours, or through the course eClass at any point.

Here is the link to learn more and to register

Reboot Your Final: Alternative Approaches to Online Tests and Exams (Nov. 16-Dec. 11, 2020)
Looking to rethink your tests and exams for the online environment? Interested in exploring alternative assessments that might replace a traditional final? Join us for a fully online course in the practical pedagogy of alternative assessment strategies for eLearning. Participants will learn by doing as they workshop their own current assessment plans in light of best practices for online and remote teaching. This course is actively facilitated by a Teaching Commons instructor, and participants will be able to ask questions and access further support and resources by email, in online office hours, or through the course eClass site at any point.

Here is the link to learn more and to register
Engagement Strategies for Teaching Remotely (Nov. 16-Dec. 11, 2020)

Student engagement is a common goal whether you are teaching in a classroom or online. There are, however, added complexities to engaging students in the remote and online environment. In this course, we will explore the challenges and barriers to engaging students remotely. You will be introduced to the TEC-VARIETY framework, which offers evidenced-based solutions. You will explore this framework on your own, and collaboratively with a small group of your peers, to discover how you can add some TEC-VARIETY to your online or remote course(s) to make them engaging, and to motivate your learners.

Here is the link to learn more and to register

Webinar: Flipping a Lab Class to Virtual Learning (Dec. 1, 2020, 2:00-3:00)

How would a professor approach transforming a course that is heavily seated in face-to-face, hands-on praxis in the lab into a meaningful virtual course? In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, 2 nursing faculty members did just that. In the summer term, the course was 100% virtual, then in the fall term the course was mixed, with 50% virtual, and 50% face to face. Regardless, creativity, innovation and methods to engage students were top priorities. You too can learn our methods of approaching these challenges and flip your labs into a pleasant and rich remote learning experience. The session will focus on how to facilitate synchronous sessions, use active learning strategies, and how to create assessments for a virtual course.

When: Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 2:00-3:00pm via Zoom. A Zoom link will be emailed to everyone who registers.

Here is the link to learn more and to register

Course Design Intensive (December 3, 2020, 2:00-3:30 and December 10, 2020, 2:00-3:30)

This is a one-week intensive and interactive online workshop to get you started designing or updating your course. The workshop is for course directors who would like to enhance an existing course or create a new course design, and is packed with creative and practical advice for developing your course. We will cover principles of inclusive course design, assessment and feedback, active learning and engagement strategies, and provide you with the support and resources you need. Please note this is not about remote design and delivery per se, but the basis for all instruction.

This course will run Dec. 3-10, 2020, with synchronous sessions on Thurs. Dec. 3 and Thurs. Dec. 10, 2:00-3:30pm and 3 asynchronous modules in between.

Here is the link to learn more and to register
Join a Teaching Commons CoP (Community of Practice)
The Teaching Commons is seeking members of our York Community to come together as teaching and learning community of practice (CoP) to help enhance our teaching and learning practices. CoPs will offer opportunities to engage in collegial professional development as you discuss and share experiences. We welcome any topic related to teaching and learning in higher education.

For more information or to request a CoP proposal form, please contact Mandy Frake-Mistak at mfmistak@yorku.ca

Showcasing the BOLD Institute at TESS Online 2020
*Humanizing Learning: Inspired Action & Impact*
October 20th - 22nd, 2020

The Teaching Commons is excited to announce that our 'Show & Tell' case study by Genevieve Maheux-Pelletier (Director, Teaching Commons) and Robert D. Winkler (Instructional Designer, Teaching Commons) was accepted and successfully presented during the Technology and Education Seminar and Showcase (TESS) 2020.

TESS is eCampusOntario's annual conference dedicated to celebrating members' achievements in online and tech-enabled teaching and learning. This year's theme was 'Humanizing Learning: Inspired Action & Impact', which we addressed with a presentation titled "Leveraging a BOLD transformation forced upon us". Our case study proudly showcased Teaching Commons' BOLD Institute and the work of all York University faculty who took it and applied their newly acquired knowledge and skills in their online teaching and content authoring. The presentation generated a tremendous amount of interest, with 50 participants attending the Q&A session that followed it!

If you are interested in seeing the video version, please check it out on Teaching Commons' YouTube channel [HERE](#).

Learning Commons @ York University – [learningcommons.yorku.ca](http://learningcommons.yorku.ca)

Refer your students to the Learning Commons web site for many ways of getting virtual support with library research, English language and communication skills, writing strategies, time management, note taking and reading skills, career queries and much more. Services are categorized and listed by partner.

If students are not sure where to start, our newly launched Learning Commons chat service available Monday to Friday 1-3 p.m. is staffed by our friendly and
well-informed peers and can help students get off on the right foot in seeking the academic supports that meet their needs, including drop-in and bookable virtual appointments, online workshops, instructional videos and guides and more!