Fall is here!

The days are getting colder as the leaves begin to turn into their fall colours. The Teaching Commons continues to offer programs, courses, resources, and individual supports as you get settled into the Fall term. We look forward to working with you!

Congratulations to our Teaching Commons Peer Mentors!

Mark Terry, contract faculty, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, and Research Associate, Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research has been elected to The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) as part of the Class of 2020. Recognition by the RSC is the highest honour an individual can achieve in the Arts, Social Sciences and Sciences.

Henriette Gezundhajt has been selected to receive the Minister of Colleges and Universities’ Award for Excellence for her dedication to her local community, students, and the broader PSE sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congratulations to the Presidents University Wide Teaching Award Recipients!

The Teaching Commons is thrilled to congratulate four colleagues who have received the President’s University-Wide Teaching Awards. Thank you for your continued service to and support for teaching & learning at York.

Full-Time Tenured Faculty (10 years experience or more): Paula Wilson (Science)

Full-Time Tenured Faculty (less than 10 years experience): Michael Boni (Health)

Contract Faculty: Lee Frew (English, Glendon College)

Teaching Assistant: Roger Carrick (Lassonde)

Here is the link to learn more about the award winners
Student Guide to Remote Learning

Learning Skills Services has launched a series of updated web resources for students, including a Student Guide to Remote Learning. The guide provides resources for students to help them find the tools and supports they need to successfully navigate being a remote learner. A companion PDF document, created by students working with the Teaching Commons, is now available on the Going Remote website in both English and French.

Here is the link to the Student Guide to Remote Learning website and PDFs

Experiential Education (EE) Symposium – Applications Open for Poster Presenters

In partnership with the YU Experience Hub and the Learning Commons, the Teaching Commons will be supporting the first remote Experiential Education (EE) Symposium on January 28, 2021. Building on the success of previous years’ events, the Symposium will again celebrate and showcase students’ work in all three EE domains (work-focused, community-focused, and classroom-focused). If you know a student who would be interested in sharing their EE experiences with the wider York community, please encourage them to apply to present a poster. Applications close November 2.

Here is the link to learn more about the event

Here is the link to apply to present at the EE Symposium

Instructional Skills for Remote Delivery (ISRD) October Offerings

The Teaching Commons has released an additional offering of the Instructional Skills for Remote Delivery with a morning and evening option available in October. During this 2-week online course (approximately 15 hours), including both synchronous and asynchronous sessions, participants will design and conduct two online lessons and receive reflective verbal, written and video feedback from the other participants who have been learners in the lessons.

Here is the link to register for the October offerings
Online Assignments: Deep Learning through Engaging Assignments (ONLINE COURSE) Oct. 19-Nov. 13

Rethinking assignments for online learning is a great opportunity to experiment with new approaches, streamline and polish assignment design, and consider how to use assignments to nudge student learning to the next level.

In this fully online course, participants will learn by doing through ongoing participation in weekly mini-assignments. Together we will practice creative and efficient approaches to assignment design, apply best practices and pedagogical theory, and troubleshoot common challenges.

Here is the link to learn more and to register

Introducing the Project Commons

Danielle Robinson and the York Capstone Network Team are thrilled to welcome you to our new Project Commons, funded by the Academic Innovation Fund and YUFA’s Teaching and Learning Development Grant.

This is a space to find real-world, hands-on, research opportunities for your students. These 60+ projects, grouped by themes, are connected with partners and organizations who want to help students make the world a better place.

Please have a look around and see if any of these will suit your classes this year. If so, reach out to ycn@yorku.ca and we will introduce you to the person behind the project.

Since this is just the beginning of what we think this kind of resource could be, please let us know how you think we can make it even better by writing to ycn@yorku.ca.

Here is the link to the Project Commons website

Here is the link to the York Capstone Network website
Upcoming Teaching Commons Webinars

Communication, compassion, and community in eClass

In this webinar, Dr. Carozza discusses i) the importance of embedding multiple communication mechanisms within a course learning management system (e.g. eClass), and ii) creating assignments that students can complete. Such features, practiced from the beginning of the course, can aid in i) the success of students in online courses, and also ii) cut down on the administrative tasks of the teaching team.

The webinar will take place on Wednesday October 21, from 10-11:30am via Zoom. Here is the link to register.

Gamifying the university experience

In this webinar, Dr. Steve Gennaro will walk you through 2 examples of courses he has taught or is currently teaching at York University that are designed with gamification and/or game based learning at the core of the course design. One example is a synchronous course and one example is an asynchronous course. This guided tour of Dr. Gennaro's courses is an opportunity to see inside the eclass and Moodle spaces of another instructor and perhaps gain some insight and inspiration for your own course design. Please note, this is not a "how to gamify your course" webinar.

This webinar will take place on Friday, October 30, from 1-2pm via Zoom. Here is the link to register.

New: Teaching Wheels Online

Interested in seeing how other faculty at York are designing and delivering their online courses? Want to get some feedback about your own online course?

Join us for Teaching Wheels Online, a peer-observation program facilitated by Teaching Commons staff, in which participants join each other’s online or remote courses as guests in order to see different approaches to teaching online in action, share strategies, feedback, and insights with one another, and enhance their own teaching through observation and reflection.

Here is the link to learn more and to register.
Globally Networked Learning (GNL): 2020-2021 Launch

As of Fall 2020, there are 7 GNL Projects from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, the Faculty of Health, and Glendon. GNL is a pedagogical approach that connects York classrooms with other classrooms and communities abroad through collaborative projects and frameworks, design projects, research, and dialogues with students and faculty. Applications for funding are currently being accepted on a rolling basis and drop-in sessions to develop your own GNL course will begin in November.

Here is the link to learn more about the 2020-21 launch, the application process, and funding

Here is the link to learn more about the 7 GNL Projects

BOLD Institute (Blended and Online Learning Development): FALL Session Now Open for Registration!

The BOLD Institute is an eight-week, fully online program offered to course directors as an opportunity to gain both theoretical understanding and practical experience with the pedagogy, planning, and hands-on production involved in designing, creating, and assessing eLearning activities in their fully online or blended courses. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to independently apply sound learning theories and pedagogies to design and build various key components or learning objects of fully online or blended modules using Moodle tools as well as other technologies. No design experience is required!

Start Date (Fall 2020, 5A Session): Tuesday, October 06 in Moodle

Here is the link to learn more and to register