

Teaching Commons

Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter December 2024

To view all our upcoming offerings, please visit [our events calendar](#)



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 courses, certificates and other programming as well as various additional services, targeted resources, and support for scholarly 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.



Generative AI in Teaching & Learning: A new website for York faculty and students

York's Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce the launch of [AI@York](#), which includes a brand new website dedicated to [Generative AI in Teaching and Learning](#). This site includes a wealth of real-world examples, practical advice, and up-to date resources for [students](#) and [faculty](#), with a separate section for graduate studies. You will also find a page to support our community in [ethical discussions around AI](#), and a page on the basics of AI, [GenAI 101](#).

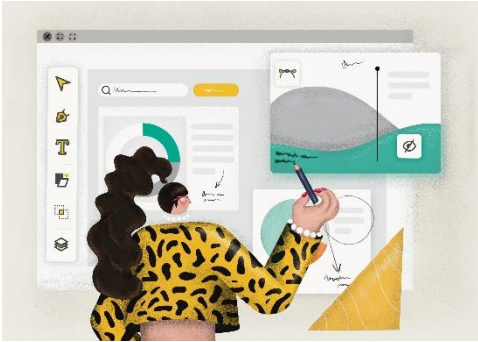
We invite you to explore this new resource and to share it with colleagues and students!



Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) (IN PERSON ~ December 4-6)

This ISW is an intensive, 3-day peer-based workshop. You will teach 10-minute lessons on each of the three days and receive feedback from peers, garnering plenty of opportunities to further develop your teaching effectiveness individually and collectively.

To learn more and to register, [visit our registration link](#)



Generative AI Teaching Showcase (ONLINE ~ January 24, 2025)

Are you curious about incorporating AI into your teaching? Join us for an AI teaching showcase to hear specific examples and practical advice from your colleagues who are using AI in their teaching either for assessment or for classroom activities.

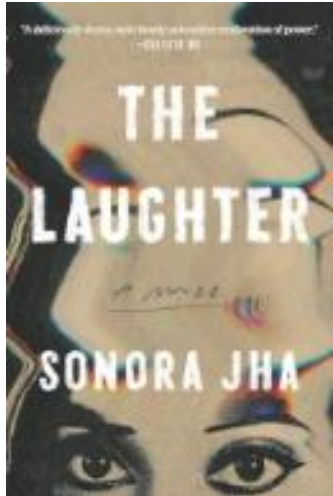
[Here is the link to learn more and to register.](#)



Classroom Observations for Formative Feedback

The Teaching Commons offers Course Directors the opportunity to participate in a formative teaching observation. This process is not a formal evaluation or assessment, but rather a voluntary and collaborative activity designed to inspire a reflective dialogue on classroom teaching.

To request an observation, please complete the [Observation Request Form](#)



Fictional Classrooms: Talking About Teaching Through Narrative (ONLINE ~ January 16 -April 17, 2025)

What can we learn about our own teaching practices and identities from fictional depictions of higher education? Join us in “Fictional Classrooms” as we explore and reflect on narratives of education in films and novels, whether they speak to us as learners, educators, researchers, artists, or simply as humans.

For Winter 2024 we will be discussing the following texts/films in synchronous online meetings:

- January 16, 2:30-3:30 - In the Garden of the North American Martyrs by Tobias Wolff (short story)
- February 20, 2:30-3:30 - Wit by Margaret Edson (play)
- March 20, 2:30-3:30 - A Serious Man (dir. Joel & Ethan Coen)
- April 17, 2:30-3:30 – The Laughter by Sonora Jha (novel)

[Here is the link to learn more and to register.](#)



The Art of Online Conversation: Designing, Facilitating, and Teaching with Online Discussion Forums (ONLINE ~ January 20, -February 21, 2025)

This course can count toward the [Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning.](#)

Achieving an engaging online discussion is easier said than done! In this fully online course, participants will learn by doing through ongoing participation in weekly discussion forums. We will explore strategies for creating effective prompts, apply best practices for facilitating vibrant and enriching online conversations of all types, and troubleshoot common challenges. We will explore how one’s approach to online discussion changes over the span of a semester- or year-long course, and integrate scholarship on eLearning into our understanding of effective online conversations.

[Here is the link to learn more and to register.](#)



AI and Education: A Hands-On Workshop for Course Transformation (ONLINE ~ March 31- May 2, 2025)

This course can count toward the [Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning](#).

Looking to get some hands-on time as you respond to ChatGPT and other generative AI tools in your teaching? Join us for a fully online course in the practical pedagogy of technology-enhanced teaching in the age of artificial intelligence. We will explore a range of topics and resources to determine what this new technology will mean for your course policies, your assessments, and your teaching strategies. Participants will learn by doing as they apply their learning to their own course(s) – whether you are new to generative AI or already using it in your classroom, this course will support you in developing a robust and pedagogically informed approach to its many facets and implications.

[Here is the link to learn more and to register.](#)

Join our Community of Practice: Generative AI Pedagogies at York



Calling all York University educators who share an interest in generative AI! Let's connect, collaborate, and share resources, exploring best practices and addressing the challenges and opportunities we face in integrating this technology into postsecondary education. Beyond practical tips and strategies for adapting our teaching, we also foster critical conversations about the pedagogical implications of generative AI.

[Here is the link to join this community of practice.](#)