

| Topic | Intended audience | Intended AL Level | Week# | Date | Day | Room | Time | Description |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|
| Nureva Room Training | Nureva teachers | all | Week 0 | Aug.20 | Mon. | 3H.10 | 10am - 12noon | An Introduction to Nureva boards and Span software, as well as a sharing of how the classroom was used last semester. |
| SMART Board Refresher & Basics | All Dawson | newcomers | Week 0 | Aug.20 | Mon. | 3F.37 | 1 - 2:30pm | Introduction to SMART Boards and SMART Notebook software for beginners or those who need a refresher. |
| Low-tech Welcome | Low Tech AL teachers | all | Week 0 | Aug. 21 | Tue. | 3F.5 | 10 - 11:15am | Get the semester off on the right foot by meeting colleagues who teach in a low-tech active learning classroom, sharing effective strategies (group formation, setting expectations, activity design basics), reviewing nuts & bolts of using AL classrooms (door codes, how to leave the room, supplies etc.), and reviewing the schedule of the Dawson Active Learning Community (DALC) meetings. |
| High-tech Welcome | High Tech AL teachers | all | Week 0 | Aug.21 | Tue. | 3F.38 | 2 - 3:15pm | Get the semester off on the right foot by meeting colleagues who teach in a high-tech active learning classroom, sharing effective strategies (group formation, setting expectations, activity design basics), reviewing nuts & bolts of using AL classrooms (door codes, how to leave the room, supplies etc.), and reviewing the schedule of the Dawson Active Learning Community (DALC) meetings. |
| AL Book Club | All teachers | all | Montly meetings | TBD | TBD | New School / Co-Lab | TBD | Are you interested in exploring the literature on/around active learning and discussing it with peers? These montly meetings will be informal opportunities to do just that around books like "How Learning Works" (Ambrose et al., 2010) and articles from the academic literature that teachers find interesting and want to discuss. The schedule of meetings will be established by a Doodle Poll of the people who show an interest in this activity. |
| AL Design Club | All teachers | all | 2, 6, 10, 14 | Aug.27, Sept.24, Oct.29, Nov.26 | Last Monday of each month | 3H.10 | 2:30 - 4pm | Have you ever created an activity for your course that looks great in theory only to come up against road-blocks in the classroom? Classrooms are complex environments and there are many reasons why an activity may work well on paper but fall short in practice. However, a key component to successful learning is the effective design and implementation of active learning strategies. The DALC Design Club meets once a month so members of the community can exchange thoughts and ideas about designing strategies and implementing activities. This club is open to all disciplines and fields and everyone is welcome. Bring your lunch and dive into design with us! |
| How to manage groups when using Active Learning strategies | All teachers | newcomers & recent adopters | 1 | Aug.23 | Thur. | 3H.10 | 11:30 - 12:45 | Managing group work is an important part of collaborative Active Learning strategies but it's not easy to do. Effectively managing groups starts with well designed activities and ends with managing the groups, individuals and activities in class. This session will explore the importance of well designed activities and focus on how to set-up, monitor and adjust groups. It will also be a chance to share experiences and engage in group-think about how we can make student groups effective learning tools. |
| An introduction to Active Learning Strategies | All teachers | newcomers & recent adopters | 2 | Aug.27 | Mon. | 3H.10 | 2:30-3:45 | What are active learning strategies and how should they be designed into your curriculum and carried out in class? This session will use the tried and tested activity resources on the SALTISE website (https://www.saltise.ca/resources/strategies/) and feature a quick overview of a handful of strategies, the thinking behind them and how to use them in your classroom. This session is the first meeting of the AL Design Club which will feature monthly working meetings in which teachers can build effective activities with support from peers. |
| "Got your back": Using Improv to foster collaboration | All teachers | all | 2 | Aug.30 | Thur. | 3F.45 | 1 - 2:15 | Applying the principles of improvised theatre in a classroom can help breathe life into numerous aspects of your pedagogy. Short, accessible improv exercises can be used as dynamic warmups for rigorous group activities such as brainstorming and idea-generating. Improv can foster many productive habits among groups, including: accepting offers, supporting teammates, taking risks, creative thinking, active listening, co-creation, and having fun. This workshop will equip you with a few short, easily applicable improv games that you can use in diverse settings, including with large groups and in tight spaces. |
| "I don't have time for group work!": How to incorporate meaningful active learning into content-heavy Humanities & Arts classes | Humanities & Arts teachers | newcomers & recent adopters | 4 | Sept.14 | Fri. | 3F.37 | 2:30-4 | When we have a lot of content to teach in History, Philosophy, English, or Humanities classes, often the first choice teachers make is to cut down on group work. Information needs to be transmitted! If you've found yourself in this scenario, this workshop is for you. This session will equip you with active learning strategies that can help you get this content across in an impactful way. We will specifically be looking at short, strategic classroom activities that can be used in conjunction with the demands of content heavy Arts and Humanities courses. The goal is to give students a variety of dynamic ways to absorb and understand challenging material. |
| "I can't do active learning, I have way too much content to cover!": How to incorporate meaningful active learning into content-heavy Science and Math courses | Science & Math teachers | newcomers & recent adopters | 4 | Sept.14 | Fri. | 3F.38 | 2:30-4 | Sometimes it's hard to imagine how active learning strategies could be done in science and math courses because there's already so much content to "cover" and it's impossible to add anything more. But active learning is more about <i>uncovering</i> (misconceptions, trouble-spots and difficulties) than it is about <i>covering</i> (material), so the trick is to figure out how to get the students to cover the material while classtime spent uncovering the material. In this session, teachers who have successfully been doing active learning in the sciences and math will explore what they do and how they do it. If you are curious about active learning but are unsure about giving up content this workshop is for you. |
| AL Design Club | All teachers | all | 6 | Sept.24 | Mon. | 3H.10 | 2:30 - 4pm | see AL Design Club description above |
| Active Learning Assessment Strategies | All teachers | low-med | 6 | Sept.27 | Thur. | 3H.10 | 11:30 - 12:45 | Active Learning strategies are focussed on the engagement of learners as they construct knowledge so where does assessment fall into active learning and what are some strategies that fit with this pedagogical approach? This session will explore assessment strategies such as two-stage testing, IF-AT testing scratch cards and more that are designed to improve testing outcomes and serve as formative tools. |
| Social Scribbling: Writing as active learning | All teachers | all | 7 | Oct.3 | Wed. | 3F.45 | 2:30 - 4 | It's easy to imagine how active learning lends itself to things like group work, presentations, and discussions. It's a little less intuitive to imagine how writing, which can be more of a lonesome task, can be applied to an active learning context. At the same time, writing is a social act, and written texts, of course, have the power to change the world. This workshop will examine strategies and techniques for teaching writing in a more social, active-learning way. With ideas borrowed from Writing in the Disciplines, we'll look at the following strategies: team writing, sharing student writing in the classroom, engaging in the writing process, as well as some games and exercises to bolster students' confidence. |
| Nureva room show & tell | Nureva teachers | newcomers & recent adopters | 8 | Oct.10 | Wed. | 3H.10 | 11:30 - 12:45 | Come and share/see how teachers are getting their students to use the Nureva Wall and Span software. By sharing and exploring what works well and what doesn't we can improve the use of the room and its technology, and we can work towards better teaching and learning in the room. This session is specifically intended for teachers currently teaching in 3H.10 but the curious are welcome as well. |
| AL Design Club | All teachers | all | 10 | Oct.29 | Mon. | 3H.10 | 2:30 - 4pm | see AL Design Club description above |
| Turning AL failures into successes | All AL teachers | newcomers & recent adopters | 12 | Nov.9 | Fri. | 3F.38 | 2:30-4 | Active Learning strategies don't always work as well as you had hoped they would. Sometimes, they flop, but just as we expect our students to learn from failure, so must we. This session is an opportunity to share strategies that could have worked better and to learn from others who have boldly tried, failed, and improved. Bring your best failures and get supportive suggestions from your peers and those who have been there and done that. |
| AL Design Club | All teachers | all | 14 | Nov.26 | Mon. | 3H.10 | 2:30 - 4pm | see AL Design Club description above |
| AL CoP feedback and management meeting | All AL CoP | NA | 9 | Oct.17 | Wed. | 3H.10 | 11:30 - 12:45 | This is an opportunity for the members of the AL Community to give feedback and suggestions on the management of the community. If you are involved in the community please come to share your thoughts on how the Community of Practice is managed and coordinated. |