



December Newsletter

The end of the semester is approaching, and I know everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved break. Before you leave work mode, I invite you to check out the CTL's pre-semester offerings in January. We have sessions on accessibility and our Teach Day, featuring four mini-sessions to help you prepare your next set of courses. You can find more information below and on our website.



Speaking of accessibility, a reminder that new federal regulations that require all materials on our website and in Canvas to be accessible take effect in April 2026. This includes documents, videos, images, and audio recordings. The CTL will be offering trainings on our Canvas accessibility tool, Panorama, as well as Open Lab hours during the Spring semester, so that you can get help with your materials.

I had several good reads lately. My favorite was *Katabasis* by R.F. Kuang – a dark academia novel that expertly weaves literature, history, mythology, and language in an epic story of two graduate students' descent into Hell in search of their advisor's soul. I also enjoyed Ian McEwan's new book, *What We Can Know*, which looks into our future post-climate disaster and AI driven nuclear war. If you're in the mood for something lighter and enjoyed Catherine Newman's novel, *Sandwich*, then I recommend her sequel, *Wreck*.

January Prep Sessions for Course Accessibility



Get a jump-start on prepping your Spring courses and ensuring your course materials are accessible! Join us for this training/working session where you'll learn more about creating accessible documents and videos as well as using the accessibility checker tool, Panorama, in Canvas. Tyr Hawkaluk will facilitate a 30-minute training followed by 60 minutes of open work time, where you can work on your course materials and get individual help from Tyr. Bring your laptops! [Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP!](#)

Wednesday, January 7th at 11:00 am – 1:00 pm in COE 328,
Thursday, January 8th at 11:00 am – 1:00 pm in Tech Building B001

Teach Day

Get ready for the semester with this series of 30-minute sessions designed to spark new teaching ideas! Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP.

Canvas Tips/Tricks

With a semester of Canvas experience, what are some small tips/tricks that make setting up courses even easier? For example, did you know there's a link-checking tool that will review your course for broken links? Come learn more quick and easy tools you may have missed!

Post-Exam Reflection Tool - Exam Autopsy

A growing number of faculty are using a post-exam reflection tool that asks students to review their exam errors and study strategies and make a plan for future exams. The exam autopsy empowers students to better understand their learning processes and improve their exam scores. Join us to learn more about the tool, our initial findings, and reflections from faculty who have implemented it.

Student Study Skills and Test-Taking Strategies

One thing we learned from student exam autopsies is that many students lack effective study skills and/or test-taking skills. They often cited misreading exam questions, test anxiety, poor time management, and lack of preparation as the reasons for missed exam questions. So how can we help students adopt these skills? This session will introduce strategies to build better study habits and test-taking skills so students can successfully demonstrate their learning.

Inclusive Syllabus Design

This session will showcase the CTL's inclusive syllabus template and how to apply it in your courses. Join us to learn more about how language, tone, and policies can create a more inclusive learning environment from the first day of class.

Monday, January 12th 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm in COE 328

[An RSVP is appreciated](#)

Preparing for Annual Review

During this workshop, Jen Lynn and Austin Bennett will guide you in drafting an annual review narrative. You'll learn more about what needs to be included and effective strategies for writing a strong narrative. There will be time to work on your narrative, so bring your laptops and your questions!



Wednesday, December 10th

1:00 pm in COE 328 and [via](#)

[Webex](#)

[An RSVP is appreciated](#)