

W2019 Dawson Active Learning Community (DALC) Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings

Topic	Intended audience	Intended AL Level	Week#	Date	Day	Room	Time	Description
AL Book Club	All teachers	All	Monthly meetings	Starts Feb.13	Weds. (repeats)	8B.13	11:30-12:45	Continuing conversations from last semester, this Book Club will continue exploring the relationship between emotions and power in the classroom in higher education through a variety of readings. We are hoping to meet 4-5 times this semester and there is no pressure to read. Each meeting will consist of a facilitated discussion started by a quick presentation of some key ideas and some guided questions that encourage participants to connect with each other across our disciplines on the role of emotions and power in the classroom.
How to get students to read/prepare ahead of class	All AL teachers	Newcomers & recent adopters	week 2	Feb.1	Fri	3F.37	2:30-3:45	Effective Active Learning often depends on getting students to read or prepare before coming to class - but what strategies work? This session will focus on sharing strategies that work at getting students to read/prepare before coming to class.
How to make, monitor and manage groups and assess their work in class	All AL teachers	Newcomers & recent adopters	week 3	Feb.6	Wed	3H.10	2:30-3:45	This session is about sharing answers to common questions about in-class group work, such as: How do I form groups quickly and effectively at the beginning of class? How do I make sure students are not just doing "busy-work"? What can I do to make sure students are being productive during group work? What should I be doing while students are working? How can I get students attention during smaller group activities? How do I grade in-class group in a way that's fair, fast and easy? How do I involve all students? What about shy, or resistant students, or absent students?
Active Learning Strategies that Work #1: <i>Jigsaw</i>	All teachers	Newcomers & recent adopters	week 4	Feb.15	Fri.	3F.37	2:30-3:45	Jigsaw is a strategy that involves creating specific expertise within individuals who subsequently work to share that knowledge within small mixed-expertise groups in a way that leads to a more complete knowledge throughout the class. Jigsaw can be used to cover topics or material while at the same time promoting responsibility for learning, communication and synthesis skills, and it can be an effective Active Learning strategy in almost any class. By the end of this session, participants will have everything they need to try this strategy out in class.
How to motivate students for Active Learning	All AL teachers	All	week 5	Feb.20	Wed	3F.43	11:30-12:45	What role does student motivation play in an active learning classroom? How can motivation be used to engage students in meaningful learning opportunities and what can a teacher do to foster motivation? Let's explore student motivation and use both the educational literature and experiences of teachers to help explore what you can do in your classroom to engage students more meaningfully and more deeply in their learning.
Active Learning Assessment Strategies	All AL teachers	Newcomers & recent adopters	week 6	Mar.1	Fri	3H.10	10-11:15	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.

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Active Learning Strategies that Work #2: One Minute Paper	All teachers	Newcomers & recent adopters	week 7	March 8	Fri.	3F.37	2:30-3:45	The one-minute paper is a short writing assignment that can serve as a quick way for an instructor to gauge class comprehension as well as provide learners with the means to self-assess their own understanding. This session will explore the one-minute paper and give you tips about how to use it at the beginning of a class to determine what students have retained from previous classes or at the end of a class to measure learner understanding from that same class. By the end of this session, participants will have everything they need to try this strategy out in class.
Cool Technology for Active Learning: Using <i>MyDalite</i> as a Peer Instruction tool	All teachers	All	week 8	Mar.13	Wed	3F.43	10-11:15	Peer Instruction is an evidence-based active learning strategy that dramatically improves conceptual learning and promotes deep thinking by getting students to engage in targeted conversations with their peers in the classroom. MyDALITE is a computer application that reproduces the Peer Instruction process asynchronously so that teachers can extend the benefits of Peer Instruction beyond the walls of the classroom. In MyDALITE students answer teacher-set questions, rationalize their answers and then interact with other students' rationals before re-assessing their own answers through a browser, Moodle or other Learning Management System. MyDALITE was developed at Dawson by the SALTISE research team and has been used in disciplines like English, Physics, History, Ethics, Chemistry, Biology and more, and it has been used across a number of colleges and universities, including McGill, Harvard and MIT. It is easy to use and free. This workshop will introduce participants to MyDALITE and allow them to start using it in their classes right away.
Best practices (Show & Tell) - Low tech	All teachers	All	week 9	Mar.29	Fri	3F.5	11:30-12:45	Come and share your favorite activities, strategies and techniques in the low-tech Active Learning classrooms or listen to what other teachers are doing. This session will be a great chance to share, listen and be inspired to try new things in your classroom.
Best practices (Show & Tell) - High tech	All teachers	All	week 9	Mar.27	Wed	3F.37	10-11:15	Come and share your favorite activities, strategies and techniques in the high-tech Active Learning classrooms or listen to what other teachers are doing. This session will be a great chance to share, listen and be inspired to try new things in your classroom.
Design Club: Unpacking good AL scripts	All AL teachers	Intermediate & advanced AL teachers	week 10	Apr.5	Fri	3F.5	11:30-12:45	The aim of this session is to provide intermediate and advanced active learning teachers with the chance to dig deeply into the question of what goes into a good active learning script/lesson plan? Participants will explore authentic activities by "unpacking" them - that is, by deconstructing them and having conversations about the details that go into making them happen in class.
Active Learning Strategies that Work #3: Frameworks	All teachers	Newcomers & recent adopters	week 11	April 12	Fri.	3F.37	2:30-3:45	This workshop is centred around exploring strategies that encourage students to see patterns that drive theories. Situating framework theory in an Active Learning environment allows students a larger share of agency and ownership in appropriating the theorizing process.