

**Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants
Rounds Three, Four, and Five
For Implementations Beginning Summer Semester 2015
Running Through Spring Semester 2017**

Proposal Form and Narrative

- *Proposal form and narrative for offline drafting and review. Submitters must copy and paste their final draft into the online form for submission.*
- *Note: The only way to submit the proposal is through the online form in Georgia Tech's CompetitionSpace at:
<http://gatech.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#competitionDetail/1734734>*
- *Italicized text is provided for your assistance; please do not keep the italicized text in your submitted proposal. Proposals that do not follow the instructions may be returned.*

Submitter Name	Ginny Zhan
Submitter Title	Professor of Psychology
Submitter Email	gzhan@kennesaw.edu
Submitter Phone Number	470-578-6679
Submitter Campus Role	<i>Select: Proposal Investigator (Primary or Additional); Sponsored Programs Office; Grants Office, Business Office; Provost/Academic Affairs Office; Other</i>
Applicant Name	<i>Primary Investigator/Team Lead: Ginny Zhan & May Gao</i>
Applicant Email	gzhan@kennesaw.edu , mgao@kennesaw.edu
Applicant Phone Number	470-578-6679, 770-598-7009
Primary Appointment Title	Professor of Psychology; Professor of Communication & Asian Studies
Institution Name(s)	Kennesaw State University

Team Members	<p>1). Project Lead: Dr. May Gao, Professor of Communication & Asian Studies, Asian Studies Coordinator, SAUPO Chair, Interdisciplinary Studies Department, mgao@kennesaw.edu;</p> <p>2). Faculty Subject Matter Expert: Dr. Ginny Zhan, Professor of Psychology and Affiliated Faculty in Asian Studies, Department of Psychology, gzhan@kennesaw.edu;</p> <p>3). Faculty Subject Matter Expert: Dr. Yumin Ao, Instructor of ASIA1102, Coordinator of Chinese Studies and Affiliated Faculty in Asian Studies, Department of Foreign Languages, yao@kennesaw.edu</p>				
Sponsor, Title, Department, Institution	<p>Dr. Ken Harmon, Provost and VPAA, Kennesaw State University Dr. Robbie Lieberman, Professor and Chair, Interdisciplinary Studies Department (ISD), Kennesaw State University</p>				
Proposal Title	136				
Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered	<p>ASIA 1102 Introduction to Asian Cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2015 (3 sections) • Spring 2016 (4 sections) • Summer 2016 (2 sections) • Fall 2016 (3 sections) • Spring 2017 (4 sections) 				
Final Semester of Instruction	<i>Spring 2017</i>				
Average Number of Students Per Course Section	40	Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year	16	Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year	640
Award Category (pick one)	<input type="checkbox"/> X-No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials <input type="checkbox"/> OpenStax Textbooks <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Top 50 Lower Division Courses				
List the original course materials for students (including title, whether	<p>1. Accidental Asian \$11.79 2. A history of East Asia: From the origins of civilization to the beginning of the twenty first century \$35.18 3. Asian Popular culture in Transition \$128.80 All required.</p>				

optional or required, & cost for each item)	
Original Per Student Cost	\$175.77
Post-Proposal Projected Per Student Cost	\$0.00
Projected Per Student Savings	\$175.77
Plan for Hosting Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> OpenStax CNX <input type="checkbox"/> X-D2L <input type="checkbox"/> LibGuides <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Requested Amount of Funding	\$16,450.00

NARRATIVE

1.1 PROJECT GOALS

ASIA1102 is an interdisciplinary general survey course, part of the GenEd Area B requirements for all majors. It's designed to introduce students to both traditional and contemporary Asian cultures. Instructors use Ten Key Learning Modules as the course structure: philosophies, religions, languages, educational systems, ethnic identities, gender roles, folk traditions and customs, arts, popular cultures, and food cultures. Given this course is part of the GenEd courses, it is important to keep the learning materials focused on a general approach, covering a wide range of topics from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Our primary goal of this proposal is to truly transform this course into an exciting and content-rich class that captures the dynamic nature of Asia and its peoples and cultures. We are excited to have the opportunity that will enable us to develop a high quality course package that contains learning materials that meet the needs of teaching and learning of Asian cultures.

We expect this product to be sustainable and best of all, at no cost to students.

Our specific goals are:

- Search and compile high quality teaching materials from mostly publically accessible sources that represent well the interdisciplinary perspectives of this course following the ten key learning modules specified.
- Develop and create a comprehensive, high quality, and sustainable course package that can be updated periodically with no extra cost.
- Develop a user-friendly course instruction platform at D2L to be used by full- time and adjunct instructors from various academic disciplines.

1.2 STATEMENT OF TRANSFORMATION

The Asian Studies Program is housed in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at KSU. Since 2010, many Asian Studies faculty members have been searching for proper textbooks, with a general and yet comprehensive view on diverse Asian cultures. However, it's disappointing to see that most existing books on this topic are usually not written as textbooks for undergraduate students. Rather, many books derive from scholarly dissertations, academic reports, and conference proceedings that are more focused on one or two specific areas such as history or religion. In addition, they are quite expensive. When Dr. Gao created this course in 2012, she chose two books which totaled \$140. In 2013, Dr. Ao added a 3rd book on East Asian history, bringing the total to \$175.77. While some parts of these books provide in-depth information on aspects of Asian cultures, they contain far too more in-depth contents in a specific area than necessary for this particular course, are narrower in coverage of topics than we need, and are expensive. Given that approximately 350-400 KSU students take ASIA1102 per year, we strongly believe there is an urgent need to take action to make this course the high quality, exciting, and dynamic course that students come to expect and deserve. The main plan is simple: 1) develop high quality and dynamic teaching materials; 2) cut cost to lighten students' financial burden.

Asia is home to over 60% of the world population and plays an increasingly more important role in world affairs. In this increasingly globalized world, we believe it is hugely beneficial to students' personal and professional growth to learn about Asian cultures and peoples. KSU is fortunate to have an Asian Studies Program with enough resources and interested faculty members who have the expertise and willing to teach this course. Not all USG schools have an Asian Studies program and/or offer a course on Asian cultures. Our program is strongly supported by the administration and the current transformation plan is also highly supported (please see support letters from Dr. Ken Harmon, Provost and VAPP of KSU and Dr. Robbie Lieberman, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies Department). Our proposed transformation plan will not only enable more students to take this GenEd course with no textbook cost, but also increase the quality and relevance of the teaching materials, thus delivering a high quality course on Asian cultures that students will love and benefit from. We hope more students will become interested in Asia and its diverse cultures and peoples after taking this course. In addition, this transformation project will also strengthen the Asian Studies Minor/Major programs since this is a required course for both. Such transformation provides strong support for KSU's mission of Global Learning, and help students become more globalized citizens of the 21st Century.

1.3 TRANSFORMATION ACTION PLAN

Our plan is to eliminate the use of traditional textbooks that do not meet our needs adequately and build a course teaching package that is high quality, wide coverage and no-cost to students. These include materials from reputable media outlets, films, academic articles, book chapters, literary works, and weblinks with videos and articles. Most of these materials are either publically accessible or available via GALILEO provided by our school library at no cost. Our specific plans are described in the following.

- Identify high quality no-cost materials that align with the course objectives of ASIA1102 and the ten key learning modules. We will review these materials carefully and choose the ones we determine to be appropriate, relevant, and good quality.
- Organize the collected materials. We will organize the chosen materials to fit in with the structure of this course, e.g., the ten key learning modules specified.
- Redesign course instruction and structure. Drs. Gao, Zhan, and Ao will enhance the course by continuing to use Ten Key Learning Modules as a structural framework for this course. Each learning module will have a set of specific goals and matching materials. These modules with their accompanying study materials will be posted on D2L and/or LibGuides.
- Help students become active learners. Research suggests students achieve better learning outcomes when they are active learners. As part of the class instruction, we plan to introduce students to GALILEO, PACER and other resources early in the semester so they will acquire the necessary basic research skills in order to participate in further developing, updating, and enhancing the course materials throughout the semester. We will assign specific tasks for students to complete as teamwork in researching and locating current information on Asian cultures.
- Disseminate the transformed course materials. Materials compiled and finalized by the transformation team will be presented as a standard package for ASIA1102 for future instructors to adopt. Using D2L and/or LibGuides will give us the ability to share this base course with instructors of another essential course, ASIA3001: Understanding Asia, as well as instructors of other Asia related courses both at KSU and other USG schools.

1.4 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE MEASURES

Quantitative Measures

Student performance: Students' grades from the course will be used as an indicator of their academic performance. The grades from the transformed classes will be compared with those from semesters prior to transformation.

Student standard course evaluation: We will compare the KSU quantitative student evaluation responses from the transformed classes with those from prior semesters. The KSU evaluation form has 14 questions on a Likert scale that measure students' learning outcomes and teaching effectiveness.

Students' perception of the course and their learning experience: An additional Likert scale survey questionnaire will be developed to be used at the end of the course to gauge students' perception of the success (or lack of) of the transformed class and their learning experiences. The questionnaire will be posted online using Survey Monday software and

students' responses will remain anonymous.

Qualitative Measures

Students' subjective learning experience: The qualitative portion of the survey questionnaire will ask students to answer open-ended questions on their learning experiences, such as enjoyment of the course, level of intellectual stimulation, quality of interaction among students and instructor, and other similar questions.

Students' assessment of teaching materials: Students will be asked to answer open-ended questions on their views of teaching materials used in class, such as levels of difficulty/ease of the reading, relevance to the course objectives, width and depth of the materials, and other similar questions.

Students' willingness to take another Asia related course: Students will be asked if they would like to take another Asia related course and/or recommend this course to others, and explain why. We hope to see an increase in students' interest and curiosity in Asian cultures after taking this class.

Peer evaluation: Other instructors who teach in Asian Studies Program will be asked to do peer evaluations after they observe at least two classes. They will be asked to take notes during the observation and share their general impression as well as specific suggestions with the instructor.

1.5 TIMELINE

08/15/15 - Team begins preparation for implementing the transformation plan.

09/01/15 - Team searches and identifies good quality materials that align with learning objectives and learning modules.

10/01/15 - Team meets to review identified materials. Determines initial materials for compilation.

11/01/15 - Team meets to finalize compilation of teaching materials.

12/01/15 - Team begins to organize finalized materials in D2L and/or LibGuides.

01/15/16 - Spring 2016 begins; Dr. Zhan and Dr. Ao implement the transformed course package.

05/15/16 - Team submits interim status report to ALG.

06/01/16 - Team meets to go over quantitative and qualitative course evaluations and discuss instructors' perceptions of the transformed course.

07/01/16 - Team meets to discuss changes to the package based on course evaluations from both quantitative and qualitative measures.

08/15/16 - Fall 2016 begins. Instructors use modified and improved transformation package.

12/15/16 - Team reviews assessment data and discuss further modifications to the package.

01/15/17 - Spring 2017 begins. Instructors use newly modified package to teach the course.

06/15/17 - Team reviews assessment data and submits final report to ALG.

1.6 BUDGET: TOTAL \$16,450.00

Part A: Personnel \$15,000.

- 1). Dr. May Gao, Project Lead: \$5,000 (overload compensation in 2015-2016 academic year)
- 2). Dr. Ginny Zhan, Faculty Subject Matter Expert: \$5,000 (overload compensation in 2015-2016)

academic year)

3). Dr. Yumin Ao, Faculty Subject Matter Expert: \$5,000 (overload compensation in 2015-2016 academic year)

This is Compensation for time and effort spent redesigning the course, collecting and organizing materials, setting up D2L/LibGuide structure, analyzing assessment results, and dissemination.

Part B: Materials \$650. Books (\$528.22) and Videos (\$121.78). List available upon request.

Part C: Travel \$800. ALG Project Training travel for at least two team members.

1.7 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The sustainability of this project is five-fold. First, this transformation project will generate a package of no-cost high quality learning materials aligned with the Ten Key Learning Modules, each having its own reading materials, video clips, weblinks, and assignments. This collection will be the “standard course package” for all future offerings of ASIA1102, allowing instructors from different academic background to use and adapt as needed, while still providing a solid guiding foundation. Second, many reputable Asia related websites and online media outlets are stable and offer free sources on Asian cultures, peoples, economies, and societies. These sites are able to do what no textbook can, as they are updated daily. They provide a sustainable source as supplemental reading materials for teaching and learning. We anticipate that many students will continue to turn to the same databases for further references. Third, the course will also rely on databases provided to students by KSU via GALILEO, USG’s virtual library. We will work closely with our Asian Studies Librarian at KSU on systematic compilation of sustainable collection on Asian studies books and other learning materials. Fourth, the course aims to teach transferrable research and information literacy skills by instructing students on identifying high quality resources in GALILEO and on the Internet, some of which are in Asian languages (with English translation). Since USG libraries seek to maintain their subscriptions to key databases on a continual basis, it provides stability to key texts for future iterations of the course. Fifth, ASIA1102 will be offered via D2L Brightspace from fall of 2015 to spring of 2017 for a total of 16 sections. D2L allows instructors to easily rollover course content into future classes or to share content across sections. Each new semester, we will conduct assessments by faculty and students to continuing improving the course. As the course is further developed and modified, we plan to disseminate it to other participating USG institutions if they are interested.

1.8 REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

- 1). *A letter from Dr. Ken Harmon, Provost and VPAA, KSU;*
- 2). *A letter from Dr. Robbie Lieberman, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies Department, which houses Asian Studies, KSU*