

Application Details

Manage Application: ALG Textbook Transformation Grants Round 8

Award Cycle: Round 8

Internal Submission Deadline: Sunday, December 11, 2016

Application Title: 276

Application ID: #001270

Submitter First Name: Christopher

Submitter Last Name: Ward

Submitter Title: Professor of History

Submitter Email Address: christopherward@clayton.edu

Submitter Phone Number: 6784664811

Submitter Campus Role: Proposal Investigator (Primary or additional)

Applicant First Name: Christopher

Applicant Last Name: Ward

Co-Applicant Name(s): --

Applicant Email Address: christopherward@clayton.edu

Applicant Phone Number: 6784664811

Primary Appointment Title: Professor of History

Institution Name(s): Clayton State University

Submission Date: Monday, December 12, 2016

Team Members (Name, Title, Department, Institutions if different, and email address for each):

Christopher J. Ward, Ph.D., Professor of History, Department of Humanities, Clayton State University, christopherward@clayton.edu

David A. Gilbert, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Department of Humanities, Clayton State University, davidgilbert@clayton.edu

Sponsor, (Name, Title, Department, Institution):

Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Clayton State University

Proposal Title: 276

Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered:

HIST 1111, Survey of Pre-Modern World History, Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. HIST 1111 is a core course in Area E: Social Sciences. In addition, HIST 1111 is one of Affordable Learning Georgia's Top 100 Undergraduate Courses.

Average Number of Students per Course Section: 30

Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year: 16

Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year: 480

List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, & cost for each item): Required no-cost textbook: Berger, Eugene; Israel, George; Miller, Charlotte; Parkinson, Brian; Reeves, Andrew; and Williams, Nadejda, World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500 (2016). This Open Textbook is free and open access from the History at GALILEO Open Learning Materials program. Cost: \$0.00

Requested Amount of Funding: \$10,800

Original per Student Cost: 0

Post-Proposal Projected Student Cost: 0

Projected Per Student Savings: \$125.00

Projected Total Annual Student Savings: \$60,000.00

Creation and Hosting Platforms Used ("n/a" if none):

Desire2Learn (D2L) will be used to deliver and administer all course content for HIST 1111 (Survey of Pre-Modern World History), a core course in Area E: Social Sciences.

Proposal Category: Specific Top 100 Undergraduate Courses

Final Semester of Instruction: Fall 2017

Project Goals:

This project will employ an ALG Textbook Transformation Grant to provide an open, no-cost textbook (published by the University System of Georgia) to students enrolled in HIST 1111 (Survey of Pre-Modern World History) at Clayton State University. Approximately 480 students enroll in HIST 1111 during an academic year, and the previous required textbooks used in this course cost an average of \$125.00. A course in Area E, Social Sciences, HIST 1111 is one of Affordable Learning Georgia's Top 100 Undergraduate Courses (http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/find_textbooks/alg_top_courses), and using the open, no-cost textbook in sections of HIST 1111 taught at Clayton State University will result in a total savings to the 480 students who enroll in HIST 1111 each academic year of \$60,000 per academic year.

Statement of Transformation:

As a 7000-student university with a large population of first-time and non-traditional college students in addition to a majority-minority student body, Clayton State University is uniquely positioned to use an ALG Textbook Transformation Grant to enhance student success in HIST 1111 specifically and in the university experience generally. As a core course in Area E: Social Sciences, HIST 1111 is a high-enrollment course at Clayton State University with an average annual enrollment of 480 students. An ALG Textbook Transformation Grant will allow us to replace the current HIST 1111 textbooks (average cost \$125) with an open, no-cost textbook (*World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500*), which is published by the University System of Georgia. This will allow many students who currently struggle with textbook costs to avoid this financial burden when enrolled in HIST 1111. The removal of textbook costs, which represents a significant barrier to student success and achievement at diverse institution such as Clayton State University, will enhance student achievement in HIST 1111 and increase students' chances of matriculating from the institution.

Transformation Action Plan:

Beginning in the Fall 2017 semester, the current required textbooks (average cost \$125) for HIST 1111 at Clayton State University will be replaced with Berger et al., *World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500* (2016). This Open Textbook is free (cost: \$0.00) and is provided by the University System of Georgia's GALILEO Open Learning Materials program. Clayton State University is an access institution. Approximately 22% of the institution's population who reside in Clayton State's primary service area in south metropolitan Atlanta (Clayton County, DeKalb County, Fayette County, Fulton County, Henry County, and Spalding County) live below the poverty line (data taken from United States Census Bureau QuickFacts at <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts>). Clayton State University students often cite the inability to afford textbooks as a significant barrier to their success, and an ALG Textbook Transformation Grant for HIST 1111 (a USG core course in Area E: Social Sciences) will assist the approximately 480 Clayton State students who enroll in HIST 1111 every year by providing a no-cost textbook for the course. It is our belief that the use of this no-cost textbook will increase student success in HIST 1111, a core course.

Quantitative & Qualitative Measures: The effectiveness of the transformed no-cost textbook will be examined with qualitative and quantitative measures. Qualitative Measures Beginning in Fall 2017, students enrolled in HIST 1111 will complete a survey at end of the semester that assesses the transformed open-access, no-cost course materials. Narrative and critical feedback received from students in Fall 2017 will be compared against the feedback from the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters in which the standard textbook (average cost \$125) was used. An anonymous survey tool in D2L will be used.

Quantitative Measures Beginning in Fall 2017, students enrolled in HIST 1111 will complete a survey that contains questions asking them to rate the no-cost course materials in the areas of accessibility, comprehensiveness, effectiveness, cost and cohesion. Scores for the survey of the transformed course materials will be compared with students' responses to the standard textbook used during the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. Again, an anonymous survey tool in D2L will be used. Since the instructors have observed a decline in student performance during the first few weeks of school because of students' untimely purchase of the book, the grades for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 sections will be compared with the Fall 2017 sections. The statistics feature of D2L will be used. Course grade distributions and Drop/Fail/Withdraw (DFW) rates under the original and transformed formats will also be compared from the period before and after the adoption of the free interactive book in Fall 2017.

Timeline:

January 30, 2017: Ward and Gilbert travel to kickoff meeting.

Spring 2017 semester (January-May): Professor Ward and Gilbert work to revise lectures, online discussions, course readings, examinations, and assessments using the no-cost HIST 1111 textbook on D2L. In conjunction with the Clayton State University Center for Instructional Development (CID) (<http://www.clayton.edu/CID>), Professors Ward and Gilbert will develop a series of recorded multimedia lectures based on the no-cost textbook to be used via D2L

beginning in the Fall 2017 semester. The transformed version of HIST 1111 will be ready for testing at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Ward and Gilbert gather qualitative and quantitative data from student surveys of pre-transformed HIST 1111 course for use in comparison with data gathered from transformed course in Fall 2017 (see below).

Summer 2017 (May-July): Continued refinement and testing of course materials and assessments on D2L in preparation for launch of transformed HIST 1111 in Fall 2017.

Fall 2017 (August-December): implementation of transformed sections of HIST 1111 using no-cost textbook. Ward and Gilbert gather qualitative and quantitative data from student surveys of transformed HIST 1111 course.

Spring 2018 (January-May): Ward and Gilbert refine transformed HIST 1111 based on student feedback from Fall 2017 semester.

Budget:

Requested total budget: \$10,800

Breakdown:

1. Dr. Christopher J. Ward, Professor of History (Instructor of Record) \$5000 for course redesign and \$400 for travel to kickoff meeting.
2. Dr. David Gilbert, Associate Professor of History \$5000 for course redesign and \$400 for travel to kickoff meeting.

Sustainability Plan:

Starting in the Fall 2017 semester, all portions of the redesigned version of HIST 1111 will be offered to other instructors as an open resource in D2L. Course materials will be updated periodically by Dr. Ward and Dr. Gilbert. With course delivery refinement based on the instructors' experience as well as qualitative and quantitative feedback gathered from student surveys, the transformed version of HIST 1111 will be taught during the Spring 2018 and subsequent semesters.

Proposal Narrative

Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) Textbook Transformation Grant proposal

Round 8

HIST 1111 (Survey of Pre-Modern World History), Core
Area E: Social Sciences (one of Affordable Learning
Georgia's Top 100 Undergraduate Courses)

For Fall 2017 (No-Cost to Students)

Submitted by:

Christopher J. Ward, Ph.D., Professor of History, Department of
Humanities, Clayton State University,
christopherward@clayton.edu

and

David A. Gilbert, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History,
Department of Humanities, Clayton State University,
davidgilbert@clayton.edu

1. Narrative

This project will employ an ALG Textbook Transformation Grant to provide an open, no-cost textbook (published by the University System of Georgia) to students enrolled in HIST 1111 (Survey of Pre-Modern World History) at Clayton State University. Approximately 480 students enroll in HIST 1111 during an academic year, and the previous required textbooks used in this course cost an average of \$125.00.

A course in Area E, Social Sciences, HIST 1111 is one of Affordable Learning Georgia's Top 100 Undergraduate Courses (http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/find_textbooks/alg_top_courses), and using the open, no-cost textbook in sections of HIST 1111 taught at Clayton State University will result in a total savings to the 480 students who enroll in HIST 1111 each academic year of \$60,000 per academic year.

As a 7000-student university with a large population of first-time and non-traditional college students as well as a majority-minority student body,

Clayton State University is uniquely positioned to use an ALG Textbook Transformation Grant to enhance student success in HIST 1111 specifically and in the university experience generally. As a core course in Area E: Social Sciences, HIST 1111 is a high-enrollment course at Clayton State University with an average annual enrollment of 480 students.

An ALG Textbook Transformation Grant will allow us to replace the current HIST 1111 textbooks (average cost \$125) with an open, no-cost textbook (*World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500*), which is published by the University System of Georgia. This will allow many students who currently struggle with textbook costs to avoid this financial burden when enrolled in HIST 1111. The removal of textbook costs, which represents a significant barrier to student success and achievement at diverse institution such as Clayton State University, will enhance student achievement in HIST 1111 and increase students' chances of matriculating from the institution.

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The effectiveness of the transformed no-cost textbook will be examined with qualitative and quantitative measures.

2. Qualitative Measures

Beginning in Fall 2017, students enrolled in HIST 1111 will complete a survey at end of the semester that assesses the transformed open-access, no-cost course materials. Narrative and critical feedback received from students in Fall 2017 will be compared against the feedback from the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters in which the standard textbook (average cost \$125) was used. An anonymous survey tool in D2L will be used.

3. Quantitative Measures

Beginning in Fall 2017, students enrolled in HIST 1111 will complete a survey that contains questions asking them to rate the no-cost course materials in the areas of accessibility, comprehensiveness, effectiveness, cost and cohesion. Scores for the survey of the transformed course materials will be compared with students' responses to the standard textbook used during the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. Again, an anonymous survey tool in D2L will be used.

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5. Budget

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6. Sustainability: Starting in Fall 2017 semester, all portions of the redesigned version of HIST 1111 will be offered to other instructors as an open resource in D2L. Course materials will be updated periodically by Dr. Ward and Dr. Gilbert. With course delivery refinement based on the instructors' experience as well as qualitative and quantitative feedback gathered from student surveys, the transformed version of HIST 1111 will be taught during the Spring 2018 and subsequent semesters.

November 30, 2016

Re: Letter of Support for FY 2017 ALG Grant Proposal

Dear Committee Members,

As the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I enthusiastically support the application for the Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) Textbook Transformation grant submitted by Drs. Christopher Ward and David Gilbert. These two full-time historians, each of whom is tenured, has taught at Clayton State for more than a decade, and is committed to the success of our students, propose to utilize grant monies awarded them to replace the existing course textbook for HIST 1111 Survey of Pre-Modern World History, which is among the Top 100 USG undergraduate courses.

Currently, our students must take at least one World History course before they graduate, and they are required to purchase a textbook that costs anywhere from \$242 new to \$147 for used editions. Each semester (excluding summer), we offer 8-10 sections of HIST 1111, with a maximum section size of 38. Most of these sections are 90%+ full. There are 258 students enrolled in HIST 1111 Fall semester 2016, and we project another 200 will take the course this Spring. With their fully-funded textbook transformation project, Drs. Ward and Gilbert estimate an annual cost savings to our students of approximately \$60,000.

This proposal will benefit a large number of our students by reducing their total cost of learning materials. Most of our students are the first in their families to attend college, they come from low income households, they work at least 20-30 hours each week, and they are Pell Grant recipients. A reduction in the cost of textbooks will more than likely enable them to complete their degree on time. It would also enhance our retention and progression rates.

Both Drs. Ward and Gilbert are capable and motivated to pursue the goals of the Affordable Learning Georgia initiative. We sincerely hope that the University is awarded this very important grant to help us achieve our ongoing commitment to a successful transformation to free and online texts. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Nasser Momayezi, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

November 30, 2016

Re: Letter of Support for FY 2017 ALG Grant Proposal

Dear Committee Members:

As chair of the Department of Humanities, I strongly support the Affordable Learning Georgia grant application of Dr. Christopher Ward and Dr. David Gilbert. Both instructors are highly qualified history professors who have taught in the USG for over a decade. They seek to transform their HIST 1111 courses by using an open source book. This is a laudable goal that will save our students money and improve the quality of instruction.

The current textbook for HIST 1111 is costly. Many of the students simply do not purchase the book. Not only does this hamper the ability of the instructors to lead class sessions, but it also harms the performances of the students in the course. HIST 1111 is part of Clayton State's core curriculum. Nearly 500 students per year take the course. The savings, therefore, to students in the revised HIST 1111 courses at Clayton State will be significant.

Both Dr. Ward and Dr. Gilbert are accomplished teachers. Both routinely score in the top 15% of all instructors in the department on their student evaluations. Both have taught in online and classroom formats. Their courses are popular with students. Both are motivated to improve the education of our students here at Clayton State. The ALG grant would be a major tool for them to help our students further.

I sincerely hope that the University would be awarded this grant. It will help us reach our students in better ways and make their education more meaningful. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Adam Tate, PhD.

Professor of History and Chair, Department of Humanities

Clayton State University

678-466-4809