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Application Summary

Competition Details

Competition Title:	Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Twelve (Fall 2018-2019)
Category:	University System of Georgia
Award Cycle:	Round 12
Submission Deadline:	09/13/2018 at 11:59 PM

Application Information

Submitted By:	Andrea Scapolo
Application ID:	2596
Application Title:	396
Date Submitted:	09/11/2018 at 8:34 AM

Personal Details

Institution Name(s):	Kennesaw State University
Applicant First Name:	Andrea
Applicant Last Name:	Scapolo
Applicant Email Address:	ascapolo@kennesaw.edu
Applicant Phone Number:	(470)578-5204
Primary Appointment Title:	Assistant Professor of Italian
Submitter First Name:	Andrea
Submitter Last Name:	Scapolo
Submitter Email Address:	ascapolo@kennesaw.edu
Submitter Phone Number:	(470)578-5204
Submitter Title:	Assistant Professor of Italian

Application Details

Proposal Title

396

Final Semester of Project

Fall 2019

Requested Amount of Funding

\$10,800

Type of Grant

Specific Core Curriculum Courses

Course Title(s)

Elementary Italian I , Elementary Italian II

Course Number(s)

ITAL 1001, ITAL 1002

Team Member 1 Name

Renata Creekmur

Team Member 1 Email

rcreekmu@kennesaw.edu

Team Member 2 Name

Federica Santini

Team Member 2 Email

fsantini@kennesaw.edu

Team Member 3 Name

Andrea Scapolo

Team Member 3 Email

ascapolo@kennesaw.edu

Team Member 4 Name

Team Member 4 Email

Additional Team Members (Name and email address for each)

Sponsor Name

Thierry Leger

Sponsor Title

Senior Associate Dean

Sponsor Department

College of Humanities and Social Sciences, KSU

Original Required Commercial Materials (title, author, price)

1. Piazza. Cengage, with ILrn. \$167.95. Required

2. Italian Grammar Review. Optional. \$15.00

Average Number of Students per Course Section Affected by Project in One Academic Year

20

Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year

15

Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year

300

Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester

40

Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester

140

Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester

120

Original Total Cost per Student

\$182.95

Post-Project Cost per Student

\$0

Post-Project Savings per Student

\$182.95

Projected Total Annual Student Savings per Academic Year

\$54,885

Using OpenStax Textbook?

No

Project Goals

The overarching goal for the proposed project is to transform the Lower Level (Elementary I and II) Italian courses at KSU by adopting Open Educational Resources (OER) that will replace the costly first-year textbooks currently in use. By lowering the cost, we will serve a more diverse population and help underserved students, such as first-generation students, take full advantage of educational opportunities offered by our program. Italian 1001 and 1002 are foundational courses and Italian 1002 is part of the KSU General Education curriculum. In these two courses students acquire effective communication skills in both the written and spoken language and an understanding of the practices and products of Italian culture. In order to achieve our overarching goal, we propose to pursue the following specific objectives:

- Assess existing OER according to disciplinary and institutional standards;
- Select high quality and publicly available existing materials;
- Adopt the selected materials and fully incorporate them in the courses;
- Create additional OER that are flexible, engaging, and tailored towards the needs of a new generation of global learners;
- Assemble a range of materials that can effectively guide learners to interpret and analyze authentic texts;
- Transform the courses into a content-rich cultural experience that enhances learners' ability to actively interact with Italy's multifaceted society;
- Offer access to educational software that can enhance the students' learning experience;
- Integrate technology already available at our institution (such as Kaltura, Softchalk, Voicethread, Collaborate Ultra, etc.) seamlessly into the newly designed courses;
- Include selected self-assessments that are tailored to the specific needs of our students;
- Disseminate our findings in the Italian Studies community in Georgia and beyond, thus placing KSU on the map for innovative and self-sustaining research in our field.

As a result of this project, we will be able to increase students' recruitment, retention, and progression toward graduation, as well as learners' preparation toward the global market, in accordance to the KSU mission to "enhance student success, improve institutional quality, and respond to public demand for higher education."

Statement of Transformation

The current proposal aims at a complete restructuring of the Italian Studies lower-level curriculum, which we plan to enact through backward design planning. Our ultimate goal is to offer Open Educational Resources for all Italian Elementary and Intermediate level courses: Italian 1001, Italian 1002 (through this grant), and later Italian 2001 and 2002. For this reason, the transformation we propose will have a high impact on our entire program and affect the 400+ KSU students who enroll in Italian Studies courses each academic year. Moreover, our goal in implementing a new Italian studies lower-level curriculum is to offer a contribution to the ongoing conversation within the Foreign Languages Department at KSU on a general curriculum revision across all language programs. Given that the introductory 1001 and 1002 foreign languages courses are part of the USG Core Curriculum Courses, this revision, within which our proposal fits seamlessly, will have a high impact throughout the state of Georgia.

Italian 1001 and 1002 students are required to purchase a textbook that is very costly. Creating OER for these classes will positively impact student success, and increase enrollment in the courses. Making the lower level Italian courses more affordable will encourage students to continue with the study of the language and therefore have a strong impact on the whole program. Furthermore, course materials will include more authentic and current texts, which will allow instructors to adapt the curriculum to the specific needs and interests of our students.

In addition, this project will impact the institution at large by affecting the students who every year travel to our campus in Montepulciano, Italy. Kennesaw State University offers ten study abroad programs in Montepulciano annually, which involve students and faculty throughout the University System of Georgia. OER in Italian will support the many students and faculty who want to familiarize themselves with the language and culture of Italy prior to study abroad participation.

Transformation Action Plan

Our plan is to create a learning environment in which, in lieu of traditional textbooks, we will provide students with an integrated, accessible, high quality and no-cost platform of authentic online resources. Some of these materials are already publicly available and accessible, while others will be created and made available by us. Our team will collaborate on all aspects of the project. Each team member will be in charge of coordinating a specific set of tasks, according to their area of expertise, as follows:

-Andrea Scapolo will coordinate the identification of learning objectives and overall curricular design. Dr. Scapolo has 10+ years of experience in curricular design (previously at Duke University and currently at KSU).

-Renata Creekmur will coordinate the selection of software, online technology, and overall course design. Ms. Creekmur is the Department of Foreign Languages Online Liaison (formerly Departmental Online Coordinator), is QM certified, and has 8+ years of online teaching experience and course development.

-Federica Santini will coordinate testing and online assessments. She has coordinated program assessments for 10+ years and has collaborated with the College Board and ETS for national level testing for 4 years.

We will develop our plan according to the following stages:

a) Identification of the learning objectives and modules of our courses within the larger frame of our Italian studies curriculum. As part of our backward design approach to a complete overhaul of the Italian Studies curriculum at KSU, we will select the main learning goals we want our students to achieve by the end of the Intermediate level courses and then align the lower-level classes. Based on those goals, we will also build teaching modules that will allow students to succeed in our courses. [Coordinator: Dr. Scapolo]

b) Individuation of resources already available online that meet our learning objectives and modules. Selection of resources already available and accessible online that we can adopt in our classes, implementation of necessary changes, and alignment of the existing materials to the learning goals. [Coordinator: Ms. Creekmur]

c) Creation of educational materials that complement the resources already available and align with our learning objectives. Development of new activities that will be incorporated in the learning modules and will integrate the resources already available. Identification and creation of assignments and assessments that will help students achieve their learning goals and allow both instructors and student to monitor, evaluate and sustain their learning experience. [Coordinator: Dr. Santini]

d) Implementation of the new learning format (Fall 2019).

Plan for providing open access to the new materials:

We plan to use GALILEO Open Learning Materials for all newly created materials. In our courses, we will use D2L as main platform. Finally, links to external, existing materials will be maintained and updated as needed.

Quantitative & Qualitative Measures

During the course of each semester, we will put in place the following tools to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the new format. These will include both quantitative and qualitative measures:

a) Quantitative measures:

- Survey distributed to all students regarding OER and courses
- Students' performance: retention, average grades, and drop/fail/withdrawal rates
- Student evaluations: ease of use, accessibility, and helpfulness in achieving learning objectives.

b) Qualitative measures:

- Students' feedback/reflections: open-answered mid-semester surveys.
- Peer (faculty) evaluations/feedback: reviews of materials by discipline-specific experts from other programs at KSU and peer and aspirational institutions (invited).
- Feedback to dissemination of research in appropriate conferences such as AATI (June 2019) and ACTFL (Nov. 2019).

Timeline

- October 29, 2018: Kickoff Meeting
- November 1, 2018 - November, 20, 2018: Identification of the learning objectives and modules for our courses within the larger frame of our Italian studies curriculum
- November 20, 2018 - December 20, 2018: Individuation of resources and software already available online that meet our learning objectives and modules
- January 7, 2019 - February 28, 2019: Creation of educational materials that complement the resources already available and align with our learning objectives, including appropriate assessments.
- March 1, 2019-April 15, 2019: Testing of materials in existing 1001 and 1002 sections
- April 15, 2019-April 30, 2019: Collection of student feedback on tested materials and evaluation.
- May 1, 2019 - May 15, 2019: Organization of the resources according to the course structure.
- May 15, 2019: submission of status report to ALG.
- June 1, 2019-June 30, 2019: Revisions and adjustments.
- July 1-31, 2019: Finalization of all supporting materials.
- Aug.- Dec. 2019: Implementation of OER in all 1001 and 1002 sections and monitoring of the effectiveness of the new format.
- Oct. (mid-term) and Dec. (end-of-term) 2019: Collection of students' feedback and evaluation of plan implementation.
- Dec. 1-10, 2019: Collection and analysis of external feedback.
- Dec. 15, 2019: Submission of final report to ALG.

Budget

- Overload Compensation for Ms. Creekmur \$3,400
- Overload Compensation for Dr. Santini \$3,300
- Overload Compensation for Dr. Scapolo \$3,300
- Travel to kickoff meeting for all team members \$ 800
- ===== Total \$10,800

Sustainability Plan

Our plan is to create a new format for elementary-level language and culture classes that will be offered every semester as part of our Italian Studies curriculum. The resources that we will identify and/or create will be made available to our students online via D2L and will be easily stored and accessed each semester. Some of the resources are already available through AP Central at no cost for our students.

We plan to review the resources each semester and update them as needed by implementing the following strategies:

- a) Monitoring effectiveness: we will periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the new format through surveys, interviews, peer and self-assessments, class observations.
- b) Collection of students' feedback and evaluation of plan implementation.
- c) Revisions and adjustments: all the feedback collected will be evaluated and used in making the necessary revisions and adjustments to the new courses.

Our future plan is to expand this new model to our Intermediate and Upper level language and culture classes.

We will disseminate our results and materials in Italian Studies programs in peer institutions through conference presentations at major conventions in our field (AATI, AAIS, ACTFL).

We believe that our project has the potential to have a high impact at the regional and national level. At a time when many departments in our disciplinary field are attempting to reduce student costs and enhance enrollment, we are confident that our work can serve as model for other programs.

Acknowledgment

Grant Acceptance

[Acknowledged] I understand and acknowledge that acceptance of Affordable Learning Georgia grant funding constitutes a commitment to comply with the required activities listed in the RFP and that my submitted proposal will serve as the statement of work that must be completed by my project team. I further understand and acknowledge that failure to complete the deliverables in the statement of work may result in termination of the agreement and funding.



Office of the Dean
College of Humanities & Social Sciences

September 6, 2018

Dear Members of the USG OER Awards Committee:

I am writing to provide my full support of the Kennesaw State University team of Italian faculty, Drs. Renata Creekmur, Senior Lecturer of Italian, Federica Santini, Professor of Italian, and Andrea Scapolo, Assistant Professor of Italian, who are applying for the USG Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants to develop Open Educational Resources (OER) for the first-year Italian course sequence (ITAL 1001 & ITAL 1002.) Teaching French and having worked in the Department of Foreign Languages for twenty years, I have seen the Italian program grow from its embryonic stage to the full-fledged program that it is now and I have had many opportunities to observe the strength of the faculty teaching in that program.

Unlike Spanish or French for which many second year textbook options exist, finding a high-quality affordable first-year Italian textbook is a major challenge. KSU's Italian professors bring together an incredible team of experts in terms of teaching experience, language acquisition, cultural knowledge, content area, and technical expertise to create a cutting-edge OER approach to interactive learning for the critical first-year Italian program. I am fully confident that they will develop highly interactive and engaging resources that will be both effective as learning resources and attractive to Generation Z students.

While I understand that the number of students affected by an OER is a major consideration for awarding the grant, it should be noted that over the years, the USG has funded multiple OER grants to support traditional General Education fields such as English Composition, History, and Political Science but, to my knowledge, none for Italian. This grant will have a major impact on first-year Italian students at KSU as well as on students throughout the state of Georgia and beyond. I am confident the KSU Italian team will deliver a high-quality open learning resource that will be used for years to come.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thierry Léger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thierry Léger
Senior Associate Dean

Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Twelve (Fall 2018-2019)

Proposal Form and Narrative

Notes

- The proposal form and narrative .docx file is for offline drafting and review. Submitters must use the InfoReady Review online form for proposal submission.
- The only way to submit the official proposal is through the online form in Georgia Tech's InfoReady Review. The link to the online application is on the [Round 12 RFP Page](#).
- The italic text we provide is meant for clarifications and can be deleted.

Applicant, Team, and Sponsor Information

The **applicant** is the proposed Project Lead for the grant project. The **submitter** is the person submitting the application (which may be a Grants Officer or Administrator). The submitter will often be the applicant – if so, leave the submitter fields blank.

Institution(s)	Kennesaw State University
Applicant Name	Renata Creekmur / Federica Santini / Andrea Scapolo
Applicant Email	rcreekmu@kennesaw.edu / fsantini@kennesaw.edu / ascapolo@kennesaw.edu
Applicant Phone #	(470)578-7732 / (470)578-2381 / (470)578-5204
Applicant Position/Title	Senior Lecturer of Italian/ Professor of Italian and Interdisciplinary Studies/ Assistant Professor of Italian
Submitter Name	Andrea Scapolo
Submitter Email	ascapolo@kennesaw.edu
Submitter Phone #	(470)578-5204
Submitter Position	Assistant Professor of Italian

Please provide the first/last names and email addresses of all team members within the proposed project. Include the applicant (Project Lead) in this list. Do not include prefixes or suffixes such as Ms., Dr., Ph.D., etc.

	Name	Email Address
Team Member 1	Renata Creekmur	<i>rcreekmu@kennesaw.edu</i>
Team Member 2	Federica Santini	<i>fsantini@kennesaw.edu</i>
Team Member 3	Andrea Scapolo	<i>ascapolo@kennesaw.edu</i>

Team Member 4		
Team Member 5		
Team Member 6		
Team Member 7		
Team Member 8		

If you have any more team members to add, please enter their names and email addresses in the text box below.

Please provide the sponsor's name, title, department, and institution. The sponsor is the provider of your Letter of Support.

Thierry Leger, Senior Associate Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kennesaw State University

Olaf Berwald, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages, Kennesaw State University

Project Information and Impact Data

Title of Grant Project	Italian for the New Millennium: A New Format for Elementary level Italian classes
Type of Grant	Specific Core Curriculum Courses
Requested Amount of Funding	\$10,800
Course Names and Course Numbers	Elementary Italian I (ITAL 1001), Elementary Italian II (ITAL 1002)
Final Semester of Project	Fall 2019
Average Number of Students Per	20

Course Section Affected by Project	
Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year	15
Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year	300 per 1001/1002
Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester	40
Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester	140
Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester	120
Title/Author of Original Required Materials	1. <i>Piazza. Cengage, with ILrn. \$167.95. Required</i> 2. <i>Italian Grammar Review. Optional. \$15.00</i>
Original Total Cost Per Student	\$182.95
Post-Project Cost Per Student	\$0
Post-Project Savings Per Student	\$182.95
Projected Total Annual Student Savings Per Academic Year	\$54,885
Using OpenStax Textbook?	No

Narrative Section

1. Project Goals

The overarching goal for the proposed project is to transform the Lower Level (Elementary I and II) Italian courses at KSU by adopting Open Educational Resources (OER) that will replace the costly first-year textbooks currently in use. By lowering the cost, we will serve a more diverse population and help underserved students, such as first-generation students, take full advantage of educational opportunities offered by our program. Italian 1001 and 1002 are foundational courses and Italian 1002 is part of the KSU General Education curriculum. In these two courses students acquire effective communication skills in both the written and spoken language and an understanding of the practices and products of Italian culture. In order to achieve our overarching goal, we propose to pursue the following specific objectives:

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6. Budget

- Overload Compensation for Ms. Creekmur \$3,400
- Overload Compensation for Dr. Santini \$3,300
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Travel to kickoff meeting for all team members \$ 800

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Our plan is to create a new format for elementary-level language and culture classes that will be offered every semester as part of our Italian Studies curriculum. The resources that we will identify and/or create will be made available to our students online via D2L and will be easily stored and accessed each semester. Some of the resources are already available through AP Central at no cost for our students.

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We believe that our project has the potential to have a high impact at the regional and national level. At a time when many departments in our disciplinary field are attempting to reduce student costs and enhance enrollment, we are confident that our work can serve as model for other programs.