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# Application Summary

## Competition Details

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<b>Competition Title:</b>	Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Fourteen (2019-2020)
<b>Category:</b>	University System of Georgia
<b>Award Cycle:</b>	Round 14
<b>Submission Deadline:</b>	04/09/2019 at 11:59 PM

## Application Information

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<b>Submitted By:</b>	Tom Aiello
<b>Application ID:</b>	3375
<b>Application Title:</b>	447
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	04/09/2019 at 8:22 AM

## Personal Details

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<b>Institution Name(s):</b>	Gordon State College
<b>Applicant First Name:</b>	Tom
<b>Applicant Last Name:</b>	Aiello
<b>Applicant Email Address:</b>	taiello@gordonstate.edu
<b>Applicant Phone Number:</b>	6783595135
<b>Primary Appointment Title:</b>	Department Head< History and Political Science
<b>Submitter First Name:</b>	Tom
<b>Submitter Last Name:</b>	Aiello
<b>Submitter Email Address:</b>	taiello@gordonstate.edu
<b>Submitter Phone Number:</b>	6783595135
<b>Submitter Title:</b>	Department Head, History and Political Science

## Application Details

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### Proposal Title

447

### Final Semester of Project

Summer 2020

### Requested Amount of Funding

\$10,800

### Type of Grant

No-or-Low-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials

**Course Title(s)**

Western Civilization II,

**Course Number(s)**

HIST 1122

**Team Member 1 Name**

Tom Aiello

**Team Member 1 Email**

taiello@gordonstate.edu

**Team Member 2 Name**

James Franklin Williamson

**Team Member 2 Email**

fwilliamson@gordonstate.edu

**Team Member 3 Name**

**Team Member 3 Email**

**Team Member 4 Name**

**Team Member 4 Email**

**Additional Team Members (Name and email address for each)**

**Sponsor Name**

C. Jeffrey Knighton

**Sponsor Title**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Sponsor Department**

Academic Affairs

**Original Required Commercial Materials (title, author, price)**

<i>Western Heritage Vol 2, 11E Kagan, ISBN 9780205786558, Copyright: 13 Publisher: Ally &amp; Basic Edition: 11</i>
\$116.71

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

35

**Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year**

8

**Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year**

280

**Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester**

35

**Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester**

140

**Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester**

140

**Original Total Cost per Student**

\$116.71

**Post-Project Cost per Student**

\$0.00

**Post-Project Savings per Student**

\$116.71

**Projected Total Annual Student Savings per Academic Year**

\$36,763.35

**Using OpenStax Textbook?**

No

**Project Goals**

Our concept is to re-invent the HIST 1122 (Western Civilization 2) course to reflect insights gained from participation in the Gateways 2 Completion program, as well as using, open-access or otherwise freely available resources to convey the course content. We will begin by reviewing a number of OED or other open-access Western Civilization History textbooks that are presently available, selecting one that balances narrative and interpretive consistency with chronological coverage. The chosen textbook will be augmented with video segments featuring historians discussing specific events, people, or concepts in detail. (Such videos may be sourced separately from the textbook.) Finally, we will select openly-available primary sources to assign the students to read and analyze, which will form the basis of several large- and small assignments. If possible, we will choose one or more films (available via GALILEO) to include in the course, to add significant depth to one or more specific episodes.

**Statement of Transformation**

- The course currently has low student success rates as well as low engagement.
- The project aims to lower DFW rates, increase student engagement and satisfaction as well as significantly lower costs to the students.
- Our goal will be to determine whether the new textbook materials maintain student outcomes or improve student outcomes (i.e. maintain or increase the number of students who complete assignments, improve scores, and successfully pass the course).

**Transformation Action Plan**

- Franklin Williamson will review the secondary sources (textbooks) and films. Tom Aiello will identify the historian video segments and primary sources. Aiello and Williamson will collaboratively write individual learning modules to use in Brightspace by D2L, using Williamson's existing online course as a point of departure. They will also both collaborate on the creation of assignments that use these new materials, as well as tools for evaluating students' work. GALILEO Open Learning Materials will host any newly created materials. We will begin by inventorying the past five semesters' worth of data on our HIST 1122 courses, measuring indicators such as D/F/W rates, growth over time in students' mastery of course content (measured in quiz/exam scores), and quantitative and qualitative evaluation of student critical thinking and analysis (measured in online discussions and paper assignments). In the absence of a laboratory control group, we will treat this historic data as our "control," to which we will compare our "experimental" group (who will receive the updated course's instruction). We will also determine the degree to which the "control" data set students align with current and future versions of the "experimental" group, by comparing SAT scores, GPAs, class level (freshman, sophomore, etc....) and other factors to allow to find a relatively homogenous group of past and current/future students to compare. We will then track among the new "experimental" students the same factors from the historic "control" data set – D/F/W rates, growth over time in mastery of course content (measured in quizzes and exams), and quantitative and qualitative evaluations of students' critical thinking and analysis (measured in online discussions and paper assignments). Once again our goal will be to determine whether the new textbook materials maintain student outcomes or improve student outcomes (i.e. maintain or increase the number of students who complete assignments, improve scores, and successfully pass the course). Assuming the cost savings described above to be a welcome benefit, our question will be whether using open-access materials can have a neutral- or positive affect on student outcomes, and how?

### **Quantitative & Qualitative Measures**

- We will begin by inventorying the past five semesters' worth of data on our HIST 1122 courses, measuring indicators such as D/F/W rates, growth over time in students' mastery of course content (measured in quiz/exam scores), and quantitative and qualitative evaluation of student critical thinking and analysis (measured in online discussions and paper assignments). In the absence of a laboratory control group, we will treat this historic data as our "control," to which we will compare our "experimental" group (who will receive the updated course's instruction). We will also determine the degree to which the "control" data set students align with current and future versions of the "experimental" group, by comparing SAT scores, GPAs, class level (freshman, sophomore, etc....) and other factors to allow to find a relatively homogenous group of past and current/future students to compare. We will then track among the new "experimental" students the same factors from the historic "control" data set – D/F/W rates, growth over time in mastery of course content (measured in quizzes and exams), and quantitative and qualitative evaluations of students' critical thinking and analysis (measured in online discussions and paper assignments).

### **Timeline**

- August-September, 2019: Review and select course materials for new HIST 1122 course
- October-December, 2019: Update and create lessons/modules for new HIST 1122 course
- January-May, 2020: Teach new HIST 1122 course
- January-March, 2020: Inventory data from “control” group of past HIST 1122 courses
- May-June, 2020: Inventory data from first “experimental” group of new HIST 1122 courses (Spring 2020)
- June-July, 2020: Teach new HIST 1122 course
- August-September, 2020: Inventory data from second “experimental” group of new HIST 1122 courses (Summer 2020)
- August-December, 2020: Teach new HIST 1122 course
- January-March, 2021: Inventory data from third “experimental” group of new HIST 1122 courses (Fall 2020)
- April-May 2021: Analyze data sets and draw conclusions on efficacy of the intervention

### **Budget**

\$5,000 to pay for course release/overload pay for two faculty members, for two semesters each, plus \$800 in travel costs and other expenses

### **Sustainability Plan**

The new HIST 1122 course will be offered each semester, with periodic reviews of newly-available material, as well as continued efficacy of open-source materials as an intervention, taking place each subsequent Spring semester.

It is hoped that insights gained in modifying the online version of HIST 1122, which is by its nature offered to a minority of students at GSC, will inspire future experimentation with open-source materials in face-to-face versions of HIST 1122, which is taken by many more students (who would also benefit from the cost savings, so long as they are not associated with a decline in student outcomes, as described above).

## **Acknowledgment**

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### **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.

April 8, 2019

Affordable Learning Georgia  
University System of Georgia 270  
Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta GA 30334

Dear ALG Grant Review Team,

I am pleased to support the enclosed proposal from Dr. Tom Aiello and Dr. James Franklin Williamson. As you will see, these two faculty members have already been working in close association with each other to improve our U.S. History 1 core course (HIST 2111), not just by replacing an expensive textbook package but also by re-evaluating the courses to make them more relatable and engaging for our diverse student population. This Round 14 grant will provide the time for our faculty to complete the work necessary to similarly update another commonly-taught course, History of Western Civilization 2 (HIST 1122), redesigning the course outlines and objectives while creating a comprehensive, free online resource archive for student and faculty use by fall 2020.

This work is being conducted by a team of respected faculty who teach the course. I have no doubt that this work will be worth their efforts and a worthy investment of these grant resources. The history course contribute significantly to student completion of Area E of the core curriculum and prepare students for the kind of reasoning and critical thinking that is an important touchstone in the chancellor's College 2025 initiative.

Sincerely,



C. Jeffery Knighton, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs







# Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Fourteen (Summer 2019 – Summer 2020)

## 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 14 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)	Gordon State College
Applicant Name	Tom Aiello
Applicant Email	<a href="mailto:taiello@gordonstate.edu">taiello@gordonstate.edu</a>
Applicant Phone #	678-359-5135
Applicant Position/Title	Department Head, History & Political Science
Submitter Name	Tom Aiello
Submitter Email	taiello@gordonstate.edu
Submitter Phone #	678-359-5135
Submitter Position	Department Head, History & Political Science

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	Tom Aiello	taiello@gordonstate.edu
Team Member 2	James Franklin Williamson	fwilliamson@gordonstate.edu
Team Member 3		
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.

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

Dr. Jeffrey Knighton Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost Gordon State College
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## Project Information and Impact Data

<b>Title of Grant Project</b>	OER textbook for Western Civilization 2
<b>Type of Grant</b>	No-or-Low-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials
<b>Requested Amount of Funding</b>	\$10,800
<b>Course Names and Course Numbers</b>	History of Western Civilization 2, HIST 1122
<b>Final Semester of Project</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Average Number of Students Per Course Section Affected by Project</b>	35
<b>Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year</b>	9
<b>Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year</b>	315
<b>Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester</b>	35
<b>Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester</b>	140
<b>Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester</b>	140
<b>Title/Author of Original Required Materials</b>	<b>Western Heritage Vol 2, 11E</b> Kagan, ISBN 9780205786558, Copyright: 13Publisher: Ally & Basic Edition: 11
<b>Original Total Cost Per Student</b>	\$116.71
<b>Post-Project Cost Per Student</b>	\$0.00
<b>Post-Project Savings Per Student</b>	\$116.71
<b>Projected Total Annual Student Savings Per Academic Year</b>	\$36,763.35
<b>Using OpenStax Textbook?</b>	No

## Narrative Section

### 1. Project Goals

Our concept is to re-invent the HIST 1122 (History of Western Civilization 2) course to reflect insights gained from participation in the Gateways 2 Completion program, as well as using, open-access or otherwise freely available resources to convey the course content. We will begin by reviewing a number of OED or other open-access Western Civilization History textbooks that are presently available, selecting one that balances narrative and interpretive consistency with chronological coverage. The chosen textbook will be augmented with video segments featuring historians discussing specific events, people, or concepts in detail. (Such videos may be sourced separately from the textbook.) Finally, we will select openly-available primary sources to assign the students to read and analyze, which will form the basis of several large- and small assignments. If possible, we will choose one or more films (available via GALILEO) to include in the course, to add significant depth to one or more specific episodes.

### 2. Statement of Transformation

- The course currently has low student success rates as well as low engagement.
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- Our goal will be to determine whether the new textbook materials maintain student outcomes or improve student outcomes (i.e. maintain or increase the number of students who complete assignments, improve scores, and successfully pass the course).

### 3. Transformation Action Plan

*Textbook Transformation Grant projects can be work-intensive and require project management in order to be successful. This section allows teams to describe how the team will fulfill the goals of the project. Include the following:*

- o Franklin Williamson will review the secondary sources (textbooks) and films. Tom Aiello will identify the historian video segments and primary sources. Aiello and

Williamson will collaboratively write individual learning modules to use in Brightspace by D2L, using Williamson's existing online course as a point of departure. They will also both collaborate on the creation of assignments that use these new materials, as well as tools for evaluating students' work.

- o *GALILEO Open Learning Materials will host any newly created materials.*
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## 5. Timeline

### TIMELINE

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### Note: Letter of Support

*A letter of support must be provided from the sponsoring area (unit, office, department, school, library, campus office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, etc.) that will be responsible for receipt and distribution of funding. Letters must reference sustainability. In the case of multi-institutional affiliations, all participants’ institutions/departments must provide a letter of support.*