

Application Number	M66
Applicant	Lisa Connell
Position	Associate Professor of French
Institution	University of West Georgia
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Team Members	Ms. Claire Ezekiel (M.A.)
Type	Creation of ancillaries for pre-existing OER
Course Number / Title	French 1002 and French 2001
Final Semester	Spring 2020

Grant Amount	\$4,000
Works Being Revised	Francais Interactif; http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/

<p>Description</p>	<p>This grant proposal is requesting support to make ancillary materials to accompany Français interactif, a French language open educational resource developed at the University of Texas at Austin in the Department of French and Italian. The ancillary materials are being created at the University of West Georgia in the French section of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Specifically, our intent is to supplement the existing courses offered by Français Interactif through online homework activities. This homework website is an open educational resource that is free to students and instructors of French and thus far provides students in French 1001 (beginning Spring 2019) with an interactive language building experience. This grant would allow us to continue building ancillary materials for French 1002 (Fall 2019), and French 2001(Spring 2020), and thereby drastically reduce costs for all students enrolled in these three courses.</p> <p>As instructors of French, we want our students to have interactive and purposeful language practice outside of classroom instruction in order to help develop a range of language skills. Each activity can function as at-home practice for students. After completion, the activities are instantaneously graded to provide students with feedback on their knowledge of the course content, thereby keeping them informed about their progress and motivated to continue studying. The activities are organized by chapter specific topics and combine working with grammar and vocabulary to give students extra exposure to contextualized practice. Moreover, activities are designed in a progression that increasingly becomes more difficult. This allows students to gain confidence in their advancement of language practice and skills.</p> <p>For French 1001, we have almost completed all the homework activities for the course. This course covers five chapters (0-4 in the OER), and the homework website already contains an estimated 600 total exercises. Once the homework for chapter 4 is completed, there will be approximately 250 additional exercises, providing roughly 850 new ancillary materials to French 1001 students in Spring 2019. Support from this grant would allow us to supplement the existing OER for two additional French courses. In accordance with the Affordable Learning Georgia initiative, the ancillary materials aim to sustain the efforts of previous Textbook Transformation Grants. All of the content of this resource is made available to the public under a Creative Commons Attribution License (CC-BY). For more information on our license, please see this link: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</p> <p>Projected savings: This project offers substantial cost savings for students. Before implementing the OER and ancillary materials for French 1001 in Spring 2019, the expenses for completing three semesters of French were as follows: MyFrenchLab (online homework platform) access code--prices do not include physical textbook: multi-semester/24 month (to complete three semesters): \$154.95 one semester: \$102.95</p> <p>Chez Nous 4th Edition Media Enhanced Book and multi-semester access code: \$209.64*</p> <p>* Prices taken from mypearsonstore.com (accessed 1/4/2019) do not include UWG Bookstore markup.</p>
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We are waiting until the cohort of students that began French 1001 in Fall 2018 has completed French 2001 in Fall 2019 to convert every section of French to the OER so that students who purchased Chez Nous materials can complete the sequence through 2001 without incurring additional expenses. Although we tried to offset these costs by allowing students to purchase the much cheaper 3rd edition of Chez Nous (sometimes available on amazon.com for \$2), the price of the online homework platform was prohibitive. Additionally, we modified our teaching approach and methods to allow students to use only the cheaper e-text as a way to save them money. However, every faculty member in the French section at UWG observed a marked decrease in mastery of the material and overall performance when students used only the e-text. For this reason, we are requiring all students to purchase a physical copy of the OER at \$29.50. However, given the minimal expense of the material—particularly because this textbook will be used to complete three semesters of French for a cost of \$9.83 per semester—and the free homework materials, we think the cost is reasonable and will help improve chances of a positive and successful experience for students in these courses.

Once we have fully implemented the OER and ancillary materials, the expenses to complete three semesters of French will be as follows:

Access to Françias interactif: Devoirs (online homework platform): \$0

Access to downloadable/printable online version of (OER): \$0

-OR-

Physical Print Copy of Français interactif through OER site: \$29.50*

*This price does not include shipping or UWG Bookstore markup.

Based on the new ancillary materials we are creating for students beginning French 1001 Spring 2019, the estimated individual student savings for homework materials only will be thus:

Semesters Taken Amount Saved

1001-2001 \$154.95

1001-1002 \$154.95

1001 \$102.95

With four sections of 1001 offered in Spring 2019, there are currently 100 students benefiting from the first stage of this project. Assuming that all 100 students enrolled in 1001 this Spring would have purchased a single semester access code at \$102.95, the total estimated savings due to this project's new ancillary materials would be \$10,295. If students buy the multi-semester access code with the hopes of continuing French, as many students often do, total maximum savings would be \$15,495. The latter savings of \$15,495 represents an approximate baseline for potential student savings with the assistance of this grant to create ancillary materials for French 1002 and French 2001.

It is difficult to estimate the savings for the textbook since prices for Chez Nous on amazon.com (accessed on 1/4/2019) range from \$1.95-\$263.08. However, individual students purchasing the textbook and multi-semester access code at \$209.64 through

	<p>mypearsonstore.com would save \$180.14. Extrapolating from these numbers, total savings for students enrolled in 1001 in Spring 2019 is \$18,014.</p>
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Timeline	<p>The project team members aim to complete and upload onto the online platform all homework for French 1001 by January 31, 2019. By April 30, 2019, we plan to finish and upload all homework for French 1002. By December 13, 2019, we project that all homework for all three courses will be completed and online. As with French 1001, each course will require creating approximately 850 new homework exercises and activities. In Spring 2020, we will revise and improve the ancillary materials because at that point we will have had three semesters worth of data to analyze in the form of student feedback in addition to our experiences piloting the OER and new homework structure.</p> <p>Although both team members will create the homework materials, there are individual contributions to this project. Ms. Claire Ezekiel has researched different online delivery systems, and has undertaken the time-intensive task of uploading the homework materials onto the online platform. This requires not only formatting the activities to provide a variety of experiences such as multiple choice questions, dropdown boxes, and written responses, but also inputting the correct answer into the answer sheet. In order to keep the distribution of work as equitable as possible, Dr. Lisa Connell will create homework materials for at least extra three chapters.</p>
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Budget	<p>We are requesting a total of \$4000. We are not requesting any funding for project expenses because the platform we are using for homework is free. The \$4000 will be split evenly between the two team members. We are requesting the full amount because, should this grant be awarded, we would be creating ancillary materials for two different courses (French 1002, and French 2001) in addition to the supplemental resources we have already created for French 1001. The ancillary materials represent nearly 100% of the homework students will be assigned for these three courses. Thus far, each chapter has required roughly five hours for the team members to complete. This time does not include the amount of time preparing the new course materials to align with the content of the OER, structuring the online platform for the homework, and setting up CourseDen (D2L) to support teaching with the OER and ancillary materials that are required to implement these new courses. At this time, chapters 0-3 have been completed for French 1001 for Spring 2019, and chapter 4 is currently in progress. Given the significant amount of time necessary to prepare the ancillary materials for these three courses, we feel the full amount of \$4000 is justified.</p>
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