

World Literature Anthology: Open Textbook

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Sometimes, less is more and free access is best!

Background

World Literature Anthologies are unwieldy and expensive. A single volume of Bedford's six-volume set costs over \$40 and runs to 1,500 pages in length. Adopting only three such for a World Literature I course causes students to purchase nearly 5,000 pages for more than \$120. To take full advantage of these books during a semester, students need to read over 180 pages per class meeting, or 540 pages each and every week. Current anthologies, such as the costly and underutilized Norton Anthology of World Literature, include pages-long introductions to each work that frequently over-burden student readers with editors' individual interpretations and theoretical prejudices. Worse, these introductions often include full text synopses that tacitly encourage students not to read the literature itself. The Open Access World Literature Anthology includes only necessary information regarding each work's date of composition, significant points concerning authorship, and what other factual (versus interpretative) information required to place it in its social and cultural context. This format requires students to read the actual works in order to know their plot and other of their features.

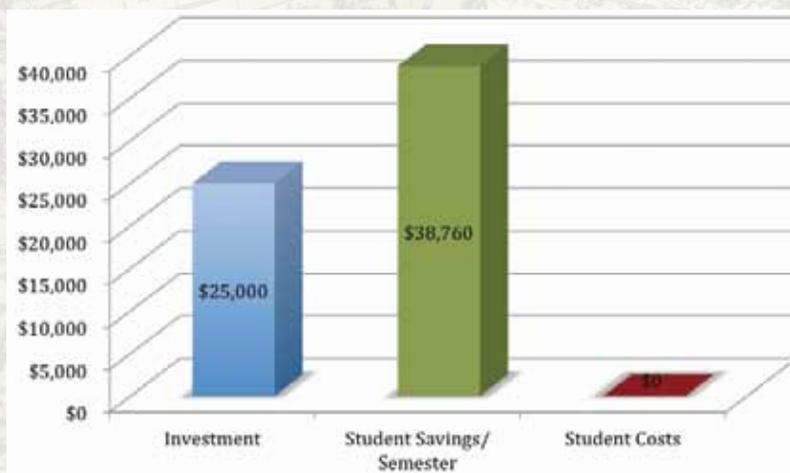
Synopsis

This project will produce an open, no-cost World Literature I electronic textbook for use by students throughout the University System of Georgia. A low-cost print-on-demand version will also be available for students who prefer a paper text.



Impact

Availability of a low- or no-cost textbook will decrease the cost of taking, and therefore increase the likelihood of students successfully completing, the World Literature I course. These positive effects will be available for students throughout the USG, including those who take this course through eCore. The University Press of North Georgia, in partnership with USG, recently developed an open American History I textbook. During its first semester use, students saved \$28,700. The savings will grow through its continued use in all eCore and many traditional USG sections. With the relatively moderate investment of \$25,000, similar student savings will accrue for the open World Literature I textbook. One can see the value of this project to decrease the cost of education for our students.



Conclusion

If students use the no cost electronic version, each one enrolled in World Literature I will save \$120 (the cost of the Norton Anthology widely adopted for this course). With approximately 323 students registering for this course each semester at UNG, the total student savings per semester equates to \$38,760 for the textbook alone. This does not include the additional savings for students who might have otherwise failed or are been unable to complete the course because they couldn't afford to purchase the textbook. Since the text will also be adopted by eCore, additional student savings will accrue there as well.

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Anthology of World Literature Ancient to 1650

Ancient World

Middle East, Near East, Greece

The Epic of Gilgamesh
Hebrew Bible, "Genesis" and "Exodus"
Homer, *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*
Euripides, *Medea*

Rome

Virgil, *Aeneid*
Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*

India

The Mahabharata
The Bhagavad-Gita
The Ramayana

China

The Book of Songs (The Classic of Poetry)
Confucius, *Analects*
Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*
Zhuangzi, selections

The Middle Ages

Europe

Dante, *Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso*
Boccaccio, *The Decameron*
Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*
Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Parliament of Birds*,
General Prologue to *Canterbury Tales*,
"Franklin's Tale", "Miller's Tale", "The Wife of Bath's Tale"
"The Song of the Cid"
Marie de France, select *lais*

China

Luo Guanzhong, *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*
Li Bo, select poems
Liu Xiang, *The Mother of Mencius*

Japan

Murasaki, Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*
Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book*
Zeami Motokiyo, select Noh plays

Middle East

Abolqasem Ferdowsi, *Shahname*
Jelal al-din Rumi, select poems
Sa Di, *The Golestan*
The Quran
A Thousand and One Nights

Korea

Selections from the Classics of Korean Poetry: *sijo*, *Yon Son-do*, *Huang Chin-i*, *Chong Chol*

Africa
Sundiata

The Renaissance

Europe

Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Francois Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*
Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Christopher Columbus, from *The Journals (First Voyage)*

China

Wu Cheng'en, *Journey to the West (or Monkey)*

South Asia

Tukaram, select poems
The Tale of Hong Kiltong

Native American

Pima Stories of The Beginning of The World
Popol Vuh