Supporting Inclusive Classrooms with an OER Instructor Learning Community

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- OER Working Group discusses possibility of launching a learning community or circle for instructors interested in adopting OER as supplement to standalone workshops
- UT Austin Center for Teaching & Learning launches call for applications for Inclusive Teaching & Learning Instructor Learning Community (ILC) Grant
- OER Working Group applies for & receives grant!
  - Grant specifies that ILC should occur before end of 2021 calendar year
ILC Goals

- Support instructors interested in adopting OER beyond one-shot workshops but (perhaps) more sustainably than one-on-one consultations
- Engage participants in cohort model that might enhance learning experience
- Cultivate ongoing community of practice & eventual open education champions on campus
- Influence OER adoption among ILC participants
ILC Learning Objectives

By the end of the ILC, we hoped participants would:

☑ Understand the spectrum of affordable learning materials available openly or through campus / UTL services, with an emphasis on OER

☑ Search for OER that may be relevant to the courses they teach in one or more repositories & evaluate them using open rubrics

☑ Evaluate course materials for basic accessibility best practices & cultural responsiveness; identify opportunities to enhance these aspects of OER & self-created course materials

☑ Identify & interpret open licenses associated with OER created by others & those they wish to apply to their own materials
## Designing the Learning Community

- Multi-modal approach
- Emphasis on thematic flow of topics
- Balance topic depth
- Flexibility

### Schedule

This schedule is subject to change based on the progress of the course and needs/interests identified as we go.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Meeting Topics</th>
<th>To Do Before the Next Meeting</th>
<th>Course Map Progress</th>
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</table>
| 1    | ● Introductions  
     ● Housekeeping  
     ● Course overview  
     ● Affordable content options & benefits | ● Readings: Texas Learn OER [module 2 and module 3]: Evaluating OER with Monica Brozen | Populate learning outcomes & module information |
| 2    | ● Affordable content options & benefits, cont’d  
     ● Finding OER | ● Viewing: What are Creative Commons Licenses? (9 min)  
     ● Review: Copyright Basics [presentation] (including speaker notes) | Record any potential OER matches you found in your search |
| 3    | ● Evaluating OER  
     ● Introduction to open licensing | ● Use a [rubric](#) to evaluate one OER you found in your repository search  
     ● Reading: OpenStax approach to improving representation & diversity in OER materials  
     ● Optional viewing: [Representing the Underrepresented: Adding Culturally Responsive and Anti-Racist Content to Your Course Materials and OERs](#) | Add licensing information to any materials you’ve identified |
| 4    | ● Evaluating OER for accessibility  
     ● Cultural responsiveness in OER | ● Use an [accessibility rubric or checklist](#) to evaluate a learning object you’ve created or OER you found  
     ● Identify one teaching or learning object that you’ve created that you might wish to share openly  
     ● Reading: Texas Learn OER [module 8](#) | Continue adding resources & populating fields as you identify relevant materials |
| 5    | ● Sharing your OER  
     ● OER authoring platforms  
     ● Communicating your contributions & impact | ● Reading: [Open Pedagogy](#)  
     ● Optional: Share your OER in a repository of your choice and share the link with the cohort | Continue adding resources & populating fields as you identify relevant materials |
| 6    | ● Sharing your experience/community feedback  
     ● Other open education practices  
     ● Advocating for OER & other affordable materials | ● Complete anonymous survey on your experience in the learning community  
     ● Submit evidence of sharing activity | Submit your completed course map |
Creating Assignments

- Course mapping exercise
- Rubrics for evaluating OER and accessibility
- Sharing activity
Utilizing Canvas

- Canvas is the LMS used by UT-Austin
- Canvas Commons allows sharing courses, assignments, modules, etc.
Building the Community

Recruitment & Criteria Considerations

Departmental representation, instructor level, potential impact level

Response

Robust response from diverse academic fields

Cohort Makeup

Departments included: Italian & French, Spanish & Portuguese, Asian Studies, Mathematics, Classics, Advertising and Chemistry
Facilitating the Learning Community

Modes of Communication

Homework & Final Objectives

- Evaluate an OER (content & accessibility)
- Completion of a course map
- Participate in one sharing activity
- Attend 5 of 6 sessions

Facilitator Experiences

Participant Experiences
OER progress since ILC ended
We’ve openly licensed and shared our full curriculum within Canvas Commons!

Online Course

Syllabus

Presentations, Activities & More!
Thank you!

Contact information:
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Q&A
More Resources

- [Canvas Commons](#) course
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Course map template](#)
- [OER evaluation rubric](#)
- More about the [grant](#) and our [experiences](#)
- [Faculty Communities of Practice on OER: A Toolkit](#) (by Lisa Louis, Texas A&M Corpus Christi)