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Why Professors are creating and using free and open textbooks

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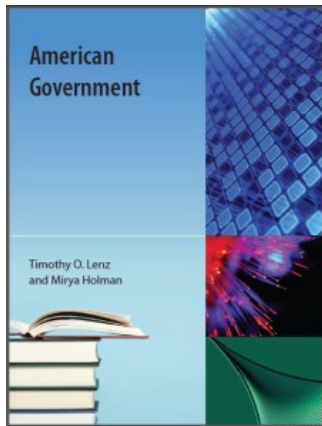
Why Professors are creating and using free and open textbooks

Posted on March 13, 2015 by Denise Dimsdale

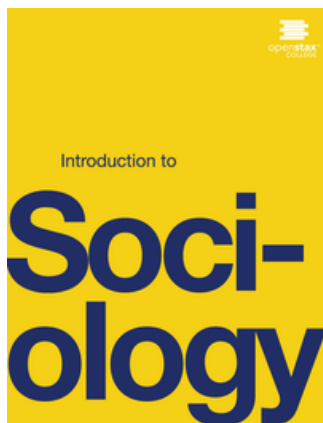


[College textbook prices](#) are increasing faster than tuition and inflation. The College Board estimates that students need **\$1200** per year for textbooks. Based on that number, students in the University System of Georgia (USG) could [spend](#) \$360,000,000 this year on textbooks. With the high price of textbooks, [students](#) often need to wait until their student loan check arrives before buying the textbook, and some students forgo the textbook altogether due to costs. Some professors have said enough of this already. Today's [technology allows us to create and distribute](#) effective, quality content at practically no cost. So, let's offer textbooks for free. Let's create flexible content that gives students multiple formats to choose from. We may be able to offer students the option to print (or purchase a print copy for less than their own cost of printing) or access the content on their tablet, phone, or computer. Maybe students will even save the content forever so that their learning doesn't stop when the course is over. We could even assign a [license](#) that provides the right to adapt and redistribute the work so that both students and teachers have the flexibility they need to teach and learn.

Content that allows for such flexible uses are known as [Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#). A growing body of [empirical research](#) has shown improvements in retention, completion, GPAs and other factors with the use of OERs. Learn more about finding and using open resources with this [Affordable Learning Georgia \(ALG\) tutorial](#). For additional assistance, contact Denise Dimsdale (mdimsdale@gsu.edu), ALG Library Coordinator or George Pullman (gpullman@gsu.edu), ALG Campus Champion. Check out these OER textbooks in use in some USG courses:



<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00016298/00001/>



<http://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/introduction-to-sociology>



**University of Georgia Concepts of
Biology (BIOL 1103E - Concepts in
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Dr. Peggy Brickman

A book that is uniquely yours!

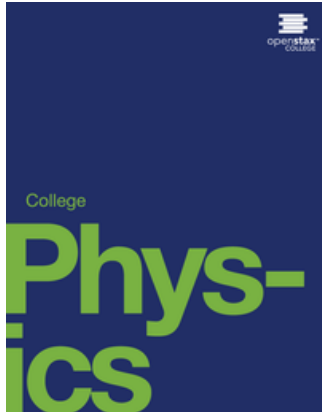
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Concepts of Biology is intended for the introductory biology course for non-science majors taught at most two- and four-year colleges. The scope, sequence, and level of the program are designed to match typical course syllabi. This text includes interesting features that make connections between scientific concepts and the everyday world of students. Concepts of Biology conveys the major themes of biology, such as a foundation in evolution, and features a rich and engaging art program. This edition has been tailored for the University of Georgia class taught by Peggy Brickman.

Faculty Contributors: Samantha Fowler, Clayton State University Rebecca Rosahl, Sandhills Community College James Whie, Hampton University

This book is available in many different formats including on the web, as a PDF, or an eBook for your eReaders.

<https://openstaxcollege.org/pages/GeorgiaBiology>



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