

Applicant: Seán Easton
Proposal: Instructor Resources for Advanced Greek Student Participation in an Online Scholarly Commentary on Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*.¹

Application Questions:

- *What are the basic pedagogical ideas, problems, or questions you will examine during the grant period?*

There are two objectives, one pertaining to method, the other to content. Students will participate in the creation of an online scholarly commentary. (1. method) Students will become familiar with the priorities and best practices of writing commentaries for ancient Greek texts. (2. content) The text in question is a fourth century BCE ancient Greek narrative of the life of the sixth century Persian monarch Cyrus the Great. The approach is necessarily interdisciplinary. Familiarity not only with scholarship on the text itself, but with the historical and intellectual context of the author and the subject are necessary to the project. The books requested will provide this needed background.²

- *Please describe what course/s you will focus on during the mini-grant period and how you anticipate incorporating the mini-grant project into that course or those courses.*

Course: Xenophon 244/344. This is a combined intermediate and advanced course in ancient Greek. This commentary project will be reserved for the advanced students, although it is not impossible that in future intermediate level students can be involved in some meaningful way as well. It is my expectation that this commentary project in future can be incorporated into multiple courses in the department, including the capstone.

- *What work will be accomplished during the grant period? Supply a brief plan of work.*

Students and instructor will collaborate on several sections of text, according to the strict rules of operation for the commentary participants. Students, under my supervision, will conduct research, formulate their questions and analyses and submit them for inclusion in the commentary. They will also be asked to make presentations about their work to intermediate level Greek students, lower level courses (including Historical Perspectives I), as well as short video presentations, and a Celebration of Creative Inquiry project (to be completed in fall for presentation in spring). Students will produce a brief handbook on the skills and best practices for successful participation in such a project. Therefore, it is crucial

¹ The project is entitled 'Cyrus' Paradise: The World's First Online Collaborative Commentary to an Ancient Text.' <http://www.cyropaedia.org/>

² The entirety of the funds requested can be spent well in advance of 5/31/14.

to get meaningful student input on how to make such a project more rewarding and accessible in the future.

- *How will you measure the outcomes and impact on teaching and learning of your work during this grant period? Please be specific about methodology, assessment techniques, and evaluation of student learning.*

The commentary project is strictly curated, so the broadest measure of success will be inclusion of the student contributions. As preparation, students will collaborate on producing two trial commentary contributions. They will evaluate these together with the instructor and then submit them to a Classics department colleague unconnected with the project in order to explain their work to a non-specialist who is nevertheless familiar with the conventions and requirements of commentary production. Students (and the instructor) will receive this outside reviewer's feedback and incorporate it their follow-up.

Anticipated project completion date?

The end of instruction in fall semester, 2014.