SE Position Description, Graduate Students

Role: UO Common Reading Teaching Guide Developer, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Apply on Handshake: [https://app.joinhandshake.com/jobs/4697617](https://app.joinhandshake.com/jobs/4697617)

Classification and Salary

- SE 4, Step 1, $15 an hour
  - Hours: 10 or less hours of work a week for approximately seven weeks during the summer. Project is capped at 85 hours per employee.
- Open to graduate students, both master’s and PhDs.
  - Note: This is a regular, hourly student employee position, and not a GE position.
- Seeking graduate students from any major, with a particular emphasis on: Biology; Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies; Environmental Studies/Science; English/Composition; Creative Writing; College of Design (Architecture, Landscape Architecture, PPPM, Art); College of Education/UOTeach; Law; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and/or Social Sciences
- Indigenous and Native American-identifying students are strongly encouraged to apply, as are students who identify as BIPOC.
- Remote position: Summer 2021

Supervisors: Sarah Stoeckl, PhD - Office of Sustainability, and Taylor McHolm, PhD – Student Sustainability Center

Overview: The graduate students in this position will develop a teaching guide for use by faculty and program leaders in varying disciplines. The work will require both collaborative and independent work, as well as drawing on and building upon your subject expertise. The goal is a guide that covers multiple entry points, lenses, and modes for teaching the upcoming Common Reading book in various disciplines and contexts, as well as suggestions for community-engaged learning with the text. See the guide for the 2019-20 book, *Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena María Viramontes, as an example.

The UO Common Reading text for the 2021-2022 academic year is *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. From the book description:

“Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. In a rich braid of reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles
toward a central argument: that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.”

This book will be read by thousands of undergraduate students and taught by faculty and program leaders from across the university.

Tentative Timeline
- Hiring – Spring quarter 2021
- Payroll and Orientation – Weeks 10 or 11 of spring
- Guide Creation:
  - June 14-28: Review of book and faculty recommendations; research into field-specific approaches to the book.
  - June 28-July 19: Guide drafting
  - July 26-August 9: Guide review (team on hiatus pending feedback)
  - August 9-23: Revisions and finalization

Required qualifications
- Subject-specific knowledge in an area of value to understanding and teaching the book (e.g., biology; Indigenous, race, and ethnic studies; memoir writing and form, etc.) and interest in developing further.
- Knowledge of pedagogical strategies and practices, and interest in developing further.
- Basic cultural competency around Indigenous and Native American peoples and cultures.
- Writing proficiency.
- Ability to brainstorm, collaborate, and come to consensus with a small team.
- Ability to work independently and manage time to deliver individual work products.
- Ability to take and incorporate feedback from reviewers, project supervisors, and team members.

Preferred qualifications
- Existing knowledge of or experience with teaching, reading, or discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass.*

Interested applicants should submit, via Handshake, the following:
- A resume or CV
- A cover letter that explains your interest in the position, including your relevant experience, professional goals, and how you meet the required competencies
About UO Common Reading Program
UO Common Reading builds community, enriches curriculum, and engages research through the shared reading of an important book. The program offers a high-impact experience that introduces students to the nature of inquiry at a flagship research university through examination of a work concerned with relevant, timely, interdisciplinary themes. Part of a rich undergraduate experience, CR encourages practices of deep reading and exploratory questioning across the curriculum. Multimodal curricular and co-curricular inquiry opportunities increase the level of all students’ inquiry-based skills. Such rich practices introduce students to the process of analytical thinking, open minded scholarly engagement, and the nature of inquiry in the university setting.

About the Office of Sustainability
Our mission is to lead the integration of sustainability into the University of Oregon's operations, curriculum, co-curriculum, research and engagement with the community. We accomplish this through a number of programs and partnerships that:

- Provide strategic advice, information and resources to faculty, staff and students working to integrate sustainability practices and policies into their programming;
- Develop policies that promote environmentally-sensitive behavior by campus users and responsible development and stewardship of campus assets;
- Create, implement and manage innovative programs and events, in partnership with other campus units whenever possible;
- Establish metrics and track institutional sustainability performance;
- Share the University's sustainability story and encourage the campus community to support the growth and success of sustainable practices.

About the Student Sustainability Center
The Student Sustainability Center (SSC) is a collaborative space for student-led initiatives that foster equity, environmental vitality, and economic well-being in the present and future. Through our efforts, we help students develop the skills, strategies, and networks necessary to work towards their vision of society.

Questions? Contact Sarah Stoeckl, program manager in the Office of Sustainability sstoeckl@uoregon.edu, 541-346-3489