

Syllabus for ESL 225: Popular English

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2025

Course ID and Section number: ESL 225, E0780

Instructor's name: Deva Richards

Day and time of required meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:30, August 26-December 18

Location: 333 6th St., Eureka

Course units: 0 (zero). This is a non-credit course.

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: Office of Adult and Community Education, 525 D St., Eureka

Office hours: by student request; Please email your instructor at deva-richards@redwoods.edu.

Phone number: Office of Adult and Community Education, (707) 476-4500

Email address: deva-richards@redwoods.edu

Communication notes: Please speak with the instructor after class, or write me a note, or send me an email if you have questions or concerns about the course.

Catalog Description

A course for intermediate to advanced ESL students that explores the English language in the context of informal and popular topics of communication. Students will expand vocabulary and develop fluency with the English language in the context of current U.S. and global culture. They will gain the language skills needed to communicate about, analyze and discuss popular subjects such as entertainment, current events, arts, online trends, sports, health and wellness, and politics.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Speak or write about a topic of local, national, or international interest such as sports, entertainment, current events, arts, online trends, health and wellness, or politics with sufficient grammatical accuracy to produce clear communication.
- Recognize figurative uses of English and use context to decipher meaning when an idiom is unfamiliar.
- Describe a cultural difference and how that difference can be navigated to avoid miscommunication.

Recommended Preparation

ESL 201, Fundamental ESL – High Beginning. Students need to have a foundation of basic English in order to benefit from this course.

Required Materials

- Notebook
- Pencil with eraser
- Folder for handouts
- A curious, open mind

Educational Accessibility & Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and ADHD
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- A learning disability (such as dyslexia, reading comprehension), intellectual disability, autism, or acquired brain injury
- Vision, hearing, or mobility challenges

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, tutoring, counseling and advising, alternate formats of materials (such as audio books or E-texts), assistive technology, on-campus transportation, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](#).

If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact SASS for a consultation: SASS@redwoods.edu.

SASS office locations and phone numbers

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Student Services Building, first floor

Student Support Services

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

[CR Online Learning Support](#)

Tech support, laptop loans, guides to using Canvas, installing Office 365 for free, and more.

[Library Articles & Databases](#)

Find the best library databases for your research.

[Online Tutoring Resources](#)

Participate in tutoring over Zoom.

Additional Student Support

Did you know that you have an advisor at CR? Adult and Community Education has a student development advisor who can answer your questions on signing up for classes, transitioning to credit courses, registering for HiSET testing, or anything else you're curious about. Jonny, the student development advisor, can be reached at (707) 476-4527 or by email at jonathan-maiullo@redwoods.edu. You could also walk into his office located near our classroom.

¿Sabía que tiene un asesor en CR? Educación Comunitaria y para Adultos tiene un asesor de desarrollo estudiantil que puede responder a sus preguntas sobre la inscripción en clases, la transición al crédito, la inscripción para las pruebas HiSET o cualquier otra cosa que le interese. Jonny, el asesor de Desarrollo estudiantil, puede ser contactado al (707)

476-4527 o por correo electrónico a: jonathan-maiullo@redwoods.edu. También se puede simplemente entrar a su oficina que está ubicada cerca de nuestra aula.

Community College Student Health and Wellness

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

If you are in distress or are with someone at risk right now, call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

741-741

Timely Care

When you're not feeling well physically or distressed mentally, Timely Care can offer the help you're looking for in just a few quick taps. Students can schedule an appointment anytime via phone, video, and chat. [Log in or set up an account with Timely Care.](#)

Mental Health Counseling

Students should text, email, or fax Shawna Bell directly for scheduling and/or services.

- Text: 707-496-2856
- Email: shawnabmft@gmail.com
- Fax and voicemail: 707-237-2318

Wellness Central

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Wellness Central](#).

Counseling

[Counseling and Advising](#) can assist students in need of academic advising and professional counseling services. Call, email or stop by one of our offices to make an appointment!

Counseling and Advising office locations and contact info.:

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4150
- Location: Student Services Building, first floor
- Email: counseling@redwood.edu
- Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm.

Basic Needs Center

[The Basic Needs Center](#) provides for the health and safety of students by providing access to healthy food, financial resources, and referrals to safe and secure housing. [Submit a request for services and information.](#)

Basic Needs Center contact info

- Phone: 707-476-4153
- Email: retention@redwoods.edu

Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students:

Library Services

[Library Services](#) promotes information literacy and provides organized information resources.

Multicultural and Equity Center (MEC)

The [Multicultural and Equity Center](#) is a dynamic and inclusive place that supports all students in their academic and personal journeys at the college. We do this by creating community, home away from home, and a safe place for cultural expression, cross-cultural learning, access to college and dignity resources, and social justice work opportunities. The MEC is committed to retention and student success by offering activities related to leadership development, student connectedness and student equity. We are a student-centered program that fosters respect for all people.

Academic Support Center

The [Academic Support Center](#) offers tutoring and test proctoring for CR students.

Student Tech Help

[Student Tech Help](#) provides students with assistance around a variety of tech problems.

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)

[Extended Opportunity Programs and Services](#) (EOPS) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook awards, grants, career, academic and personal counseling, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!

TRiO Student Success Program

The TRiO Student Support Services Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including academic advising, career assessments, assistance with transfer, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program with the [Eureka TRiO office](#) or the [Del Norte TRiO office](#).

Veterans Resource Center

The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.

CalWORKS

California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids ([CalWORKS](#)) provides supportive services to student parents with children under the age of 18, who are receiving cash assistance (TANF benefits), to become self-sufficient. Services include: transportation assistance, basic student supplies, tutoring, priority registration, laptop and calculator loans, career, academic, and personal counseling, and more!

Evaluation & Grading Policy

This is a non-credit course, so a letter grade will not be given. Students will earn an "S" for satisfactory participation. Please note that your instructor will correct your English both in writing and orally with the goal of helping you improve your language skills.

Fall 2025 Important Dates

August 23	Classes begin
September 01	No classes; Labor Day
November 11	No classes; Veteran's Day
November 24-28	No classes; Thanksgiving Break
December 19	Classes End

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [2024-2025 College Catalog](#) and [CR Board and Administrative Policies](#).

AI Use Class Policy

Recent advancements in generative artificial intelligence (AI) have made large language models such as ChatGPT and Google's Bard widely available. However, overuse of these tools in this class can undermine your learning and curtail the development of your critical and creative thinking skills. In addition, AI outputs are often unreliable and frequently subject to bias. For these reasons, the policy of this class is that AI cannot be used at any point in the completion of class assignments, including discussion posts. Any or all of your assignment submissions and discussion posts may be screened by AI detection software, but the real penalty for AI misuse is that you will miss out on an opportunity to learn.

Disruptive Behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [2024-25 College Catalog](#) and [CR Board and Administrative Policies](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages teacher & students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Emergency Procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into [WebAdvisor](#) and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions.

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.