



Syllabus for ESL 225: Popular English

Course Information

Semester & Year: Summer 2026

Course ID and Section number: ESL 225, E3091

Instructor's name: Deva Richards

Day and time of required meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-1:30, June 02-July 23

Location: Room 101 inside the Adult and Community Education building, 525 D 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 note: If you have questions or concerns about the course, please speak with the instructor after class, or write me a note, or send me an email.

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 contact details and location

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Email: sass@redwoods.edu
- Location: Student Services Building, first floor, on the main campus at 7351 Tompkins Hill Rd.

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.

Behavior Policy

- Please help your classmates if they ask for help, but **do not let classmates copy your work**.
- I recommend *not* using an electronic translator in this course. I can usually tell when a student has used one because their English doesn't sound quite right. Your brain is smarter than your phone, and **you need to memorize English** if you want to speak it well.

Summer 2026 Important Dates

June 01	Classes begin
June 18	No classes; Juneteenth, observed
July 02	No classes; Independence Day, observed
July 23	Classes end

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.

¿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.

Community College Student Health and Wellness

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

If you are in distress or are with someone who is in distress right now, call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at:

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Or you can text the Lifeline at:

741-741

Mental Health Counseling

Students should text, email, or fax CR's affiliated licensed therapist Shawna Bell 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 physical health, mental health, general wellness, basic needs and more, designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges Wellness Central website.

Counseling and Advising

Counseling and Advising can assist students in need of academic advising and professional counseling services. Call, email or stop by one of their offices to make an appointment.

Eureka Main Campus

- Phone: 707-476-4150
- Location: Student Services Building, first floor, at 7351 Tompkins Hill Rd., Eureka
- Email: counseling@redwoods.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.

- Phone: 707-476-4153
- Email: basic-needs@redwoods.edu

Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resource Center, located inside the library on CR's main campus, includes the following resources for students:

- Library Services promotes information literacy and provides organized information resources.
- The Multicultural Education 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.
- The Academic Support Center offers tutoring and test proctoring for CR students.
- The Student Tech Help Desk 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 the following: transportation assistance, basic student supplies, tutoring, priority registration, laptop and calculator loans, career, academic, and personal counseling, and more.

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 the following: 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 teachers and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.