

Course Information

Semester and Year: Fall 2025

Course ID and Section number: FNR-88-E9179

Instructor's name: Dennis Houghton

Day and time of required meetings: Friday; 10:05am-2:30pm

Location: AT 127

Course units: 2 units

Instructor Contact Information

Office: Canvas or Online

Phone number: 707-601-4714

Email address: dennis-houghton@redwoods.edu

Catalog Description

An introduction to the principles of sustainable trails that touches on each aspect of trail maintenance to assess trail needs, prescribe maintenance solutions, and execute basic trail maintenance. This course provides a broad overview of the different types of trails, surfaces, locations, user types, difficulty levels, and experiences. Students will understand the general goals of trail design principles. No prior experience in trail building is needed. Includes coordinated lab experience.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Apply knowledge of trail construction and maintenance to make informed decisions about their person lives, career or educational choices, and the communities in which they live.
- Acquire, articulate, create and convey knowledge and understanding about trail construction and maintenance using a variety of methods of communication.
- Identify and examine field examples of concepts explored in coursework and their implications for the study of trail construction and maintenance.

Course Calendar

- September 5, 2025 to November 21, 2025
- Field trip on October 10-12, 2025

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Evaluation for this course is based on your performance of the following assignments:

Attendance and Active Participation (14) – 50 point per week = 700 points

Weekly Reflection writeup (10) – 25 points per week = 250 points

Total Points = 950 points

Grades will be posted to Canvas in a timely manner after an assignment is completed.

Semester grades will be based on the percentage of the total possible points earned over the semester. Letter grades will be broken down as follows:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Below 60% = F

Active Participation:

Assessment of trail building terminology, principles and construction techniques will be conducted in the field during the lab period.

Missed class periods can be made up by participating in a volunteer workday (4 hours per missed class period) sponsored by the Humboldt Trails Stewards. **Contact your instructor for more information.**

If you miss more than two class periods, you may be dropped from the class.

Weekly Reflection assignments:

Each week you are responsible for completing a Weekly reflection by following the Weekly reflection template on Canvas. Write-ups can be uploaded to Canvas and are **due the following Thursday at 11:59pm. No late assignments will be accepted, and you will receive zero points for that week.** These Weekly reflections give you a chance to reflect on your experience and demonstrate what you have gained by participating in the learning activity. Each Weekly reflection is worth 25 points and is graded based on the following rubric:

Criteria	Meets Expectation	Needs Improvement	Does Not Meet Expectations
Content 20 points	20 points Clearly and thoughtfully responds to the lec/lab prompts with sufficient detail and explanation.	15 points Responds to the lec/lab prompts but responses lack adequate detail and/or clear explanations.	10 points Responses do not adequately address the prompt. Responses severely lack detail and explanation.

Timeliness 5 points	5 points Assignment was turned in by the required due date (Tuesday by 11:59pm).		
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Prerequisites/corequisites/ recommended preparation

None

Textbooks

CA State Parks Trails Handbook https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29674

Educational Accessibility and 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, or bipolar disorder
- 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
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](#), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g., audio books, braille, E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, 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 Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) for a consultation: sass@redwoods.edu.

SASS office locations and phone numbers

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Learning Resource Center (Library)

Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-465-2353
- Location: main building, near the Library

Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280