

## **SUST 360 Natural History of the Redwoods**

The primary objective and purpose of this class is to connect students to the natural history, ecology, and current issues surrounding the California Redwood Forest. This field course intends to immerse students in the Redwood environment to help them better understand this special, unique ecosystem. Time will be spent hiking, observing, and traveling in Redwood country from Del Norte and Humboldt Counties to Santa Cruz County. Students will camp during their trip. This is a special opportunity to share an intimate experience in a unique place, meet and learn from experts in the field, and engage in detailed observation.

### **Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:**

1. Explain and apply knowledge of how the Redwood Forest works as an ecological system
2. Engage and apply patient, science-based observations on a variety of scales
3. Understand the uniqueness of the Redwood Forest environment with the ability to articulate the issues surrounding its health historically, and in current times
4. Conduct scientific research, including hypothesis formation, as well as observation and experimental design
5. Describe the key characteristics of the ecosystems and many species of the Redwood Forest

### **Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes**

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Class participation/attendance
2. Daily detailed journal entries utilizing the Grinnell Method; One major focus/day
3. Daily group discussions based on observations and class meetings with experts in the field
4. Individual Presentation on overall experience/daily observations

### **Course of Action:**

1. Visit Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and Redwood National Park
2. Meet with Redwood Forest Scientist (Allyson Carol) at Humboldt State University
  - a. Meet with local arborist for Redwood discussion
  - b. Possible meeting with Blue Lakes Rancheria Staff
3. Attend presentation from EPIC
4. Meet with BLM Representative for Headwaters Forest hike, discussion and interpretation
5. Deconstruct multiple issues associated with the history of the Redwoods
6. Meet and camp with members of CalFire, Big Creek Lumber, and the Soquel Demonstration Forest in Santa Cruz County