



Course Syllabus for GEOG 103 Online

COURSE NAME	TERM/YEAR:
Introduction to Physical Geography: Landforms and Soils	Fall 2020 PTS-2

CLASS SCHEDULE

ONLINE: <https://rossway.net/cc103-intensive/>

INSTRUCTOR:	CONTACT INFORMATION:
Rev. Dr. Bruce Martin	bmartin@corpuschristi.ca

OFFICE HOURS:

Email

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

A study of the physical and biological processes governing the evolution and distribution of landforms, soils, and vegetation of the Earth, and the impact of humans. Laboratory exercises required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to geomorphology, the scientific study of landscape. In the course, students will be introduced to earth materials, the nature and formation of major landform features on the earth's surface, processes that continue to shape the physical landscape, and soils.

This course will provide students with a basic foundation for further courses in physical geography. The course will also be very beneficial for students interested in other disciplines which consider the natural environment (such as agriculture, ecology or engineering), or fields which deal with human/environment interaction (such as education, social sciences, history, anthropology or architecture).

Course Pre-requisite(s):

None. Geography 103 is complementary to Geography 102. Neither course has any prerequisite. Neither course is a prerequisite for the other.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the successful completion of this course the student should have:



1. A basic understanding of the physical processes and dynamics that have shaped, and continue to influence, the landscape;
2. An awareness of basic techniques and skills used in physical geography;
3. An enhanced appreciation of the complex interaction of processes and systems active in the natural environment;
4. An introduction to the discipline of physical geography and its relevance to a variety of fields of study;
5. A basic understanding of Christian perspectives on the natural sciences.

REQUIRED TEXTS & RESOURCES:

1. Christopherson, R.W., Birkeland, G.H., Byrne, M-L., and Giles, P.T. ***Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 4th (or 3rd) Canadian Edition.*** Toronto: Pearson. ISBN 9780134854052. This is now only available digitally (although there may be resale paper copies available). ID code **martin45727**. Note. Once you have purchased the eBook (good for 24 months), you can choose to purchase a paper copy for an extra fee.

Get started with Mastering

1. Go to <https://registration.mypearson.com/>. Enter your **Course ID martin45727** (copy and paste)
2. Sign in if you have used a Pearson product before OR Create a new account
3. Select your access option
 - a) **Get 14-day temporary access** if you want to try the product first
 - b) **Purchase the access code** with a credit card or PayPal account
 - c) **You may purchase a paper copy of the text for an extra fee**
4. From the “You’re Done” page, select “Go To My Courses” to start your course.
5. From now on, you can sign in from www.pearson.com/mylab.

For a video walkthrough of the process:

[Pearson’s MyLab & Mastering Registration](#)

This is also the text for GEOG 102. If you take (or have taken) GEOG 102, you will not have to buy another text!

Used copies of older editions may be available. Check with other students.

2. Online notes are posted on the website. A schedule of readings is in the Course Calendar.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course is a Distance Education course. Most students respond very positively – they can work on their own time and in their own way. But it does require a different approach to learning! You will have the privilege (or challenge, depending how you look at it!) to be more self-directed in your learning! There are several implications of which you need to be aware as you commit to the course:

Practical Implications:

- The workload for this course is equivalent to any other 3 credit hour class offered on campus -- approximately 4-5 hours of reading (textbook) and 2.5 hours of lecture (online notes) per week. ***This is an accelerated course, meaning you can expect 4.5-6 hours of lecture (online notes) and 4.5-6 hours of textbook reading.***
- You will be expected to be diligent in reading the course notes and text as these will be the chief sources of information.
- Internet access is ***absolutely essential*** as a source of information (the lectures are all online), to chat with the instructor about course content and assignments, to chat with other students, and to access other websites with information relevant to the course.
- You will need to complete assignments ***absolutely on time*** in order that they may be forwarded to the instructor.
- You will be encouraged to participate in a “**Study Group**” which will meet weekly, in order to work on labs and help one another understand difficult concepts.

Personal Implications:

- You will need to be self-directed and self-motivated to complete the course requirements.
- You will need to be disciplined to complete the assignments on time.
- The Study Groups will only be as helpful and productive as you choose to make them. Study Groups can be one of the most effective – and enjoyable – methods of learning.
- You will not need to spend as much time in class as a traditional course ... but more time in personal study.
- You may be able to complete the requirements for the course (except for the exams), early!
- You will have the opportunity to direct your own learning times and styles.
- You will learn some invaluable skills and discipline in time management and self-directed learning.

This is an ***INTENSIVE*** course:

- You are doing as much in 8 weeks as in a 13-week Fall/Winter course, therefore you are doing twice as much work per week as a Fall/Winter course.
- We still have to do the equivalent of 13-week course, so it will be a bit intense!

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

The grading schema for the course is as follows:

	GRADE %
Reading Assignments	4



	GRADE %
Labs	20
Midterm Exam	35
Final Exam	35
Online Discussion	6

COURSE POLICIES

It is the responsibility of every student to read and understand the College Policies. The College Policies on [Academic Honesty](#), [Academic and Exam Accommodations](#), [Grading Practices](#), [Student Conduct](#), [Technology Usage](#), and more can be found here: <http://corpuschristi.ca/about-us/academic-policies>

In addition to the College Policies, this course also upholds the following policies and practices:

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to “attend” all classes. In the online environment, this means reading all the content and participating actively in the discussions. Students should advise their instructors of anticipated absence from the course or absence due to illness.

ASSIGNMENTS:

To satisfy the requirements of this course, students will carry out the following assignments:

1. Reading Assignments (4%)

There will be regular reading assignments from the course notes and text, as indicated in the calendar. Each week you will indicate on Canvas whether you have or have not done the readings. Because this will be the chief source of information in the course, reading is essential. The online notes are at <https://rossway.net/ccl103-intensive/>

2. Labs (20%)

Laboratory exercises are required and will be evaluated. Labs are “Quizzes” on Canvas. You will have to do each lab in one sitting as there is no way to allow a restart. Allow 2-3 hours per lab. You will need your online notes and your text book to be successful. Yes, these are open-book. Late labs are not accepted.

3. Mid-term examination (35%): Thursday, November 26, 3-4 p.m.

Please clear your schedule. The timing in this course is so tight, alternate arrangements are not possible.

The mid-term exam will be based on lecture material and readings covered in the first half of the term. It will be based on:

- Chapters 1, 12-15 of *Geosystems* and online notes 1, 12-15



A study guide is here: <https://rossway.net/geography-103-intensive/103-intensive-midterm-study-guide/>

4. Participation in a moderated discussion group (6%).

Over the term you will be expected to join in an online discussion with your classmates. During the year you are responsible to keep an eye on the discussion ... and to participate! You are responsible to make one entry per week (see the calendar for any exceptions). I will post suggested topics. Or you can create your own. There is no set time you have to be online. Rather, interact with other posted comments or post your own (it is more of a forum for posted comments than a live chatroom). Your participation will count towards your grade!

5. Final examination (35%)

The date of the exam is **TBA**. Please consult the most recent edition of the Final Examination Schedule to confirm the date and time. Please note that instructors are *not* at liberty to reschedule final examinations. Students who propose not to take a final examination at the scheduled time must apply for rescheduling to the Academic Committee.

The final exam will be based on lecture and lab material and readings covered from the mid-term exam until the end of the term. The final exam will cover:

- Chapters 16-18 of *Geosystems 4CE* and online notes 16-18
- Theological Issues notes
- Eolian and Deserts online notes

A study guide is here: <https://rossway.net/geography-103-intensive/103-final-exam-study-guide/>

MISSED TESTS:

Exams can only be rescheduled due to medical reasons, with a note from a physician.

GRADING SCALE:

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS	GRADE POINT	GRASP OF SUBJECT MATTER	OTHER QUALITIES EXPECTED OF STUDENTS
A RANGE:		Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.		
A+	90-100	4.33	Extraordinary	Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base. Superior grasp of subject matter with



LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS	GRADE POINT	GRASP OF SUBJECT MATTER	OTHER QUALITIES EXPECTED OF STUDENTS
				sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	85-89	4.0	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base. Strong grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of broad knowledge base.
A-	80-84	3.67	Very, very good	

B RANGE:		Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.		
B+	76-79	3.33	Very good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good evidence of familiarity with literature
B	72-75	3.0	Good	
B-	68-71	2.67	Satisfactory	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

C RANGE		Acceptable to minimum.		
C+	64-67	2.33	Acceptable	Very basic critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some evidence of familiarity with literature.
C	60-63	2.0	Barely Acceptable	
C-	55-59	1.67	Needs Improvement	
D	50-54	1.0	Minimum Pass	

FAILED				
F	0-49	0		Failure to meet the above criteria

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule may be altered according to the instructor's judgment. See the online course calendar on the website, <https://rossway.net/cc103-intensive/> for specific dates.



Week	Date(s)	Course Content	Readings For Each Class	Other Information
1	Nov 2-7	Website, syllabus, and Introduction to Geography	online notes 1a/b, text 1	
2	Nov 9-14	The Dynamic Planet Tectonics/earthquakes/volcanos	online notes and text 12 online notes and text 13	Lab 1 due Nov 10
3	Nov 16-21	Weathering/mass movement Rivers	online notes and text 14 online notes and text 15	Lab 2 due Nov 17
4	Nov 26	Midterm Exam		Lab 3 due Nov 24
5	N 30-D 5	Oceans and coastal landforms Glacial/periglacial landforms	online notes and text 16 online notes and text 17	
6	Dec 7-12	Soils Eolian landforms	online notes and text 18 online notes	Lab 4 due Dec 8
7	Dec 14-19	Deserts Theological Issues	online notes online notes	Lab 5 due Dec 15

Appendix

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RELATED COURSES AT CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE:

GEOG 102 (3): Introduction to Physical Geography: Weather and Climate

GEOG 206 (3): Geography of British Columbia

GEOL 105 (3): Introduction to Physical Geology