



Course Syllabus for GEOG 102 Online

COURSE NAME Introduction to Physical Geography: Weather and Climate	TERM/YEAR: Fall 2023
CLASS SCHEDULE ONLINE: https://rossway.net/cccl02/	
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Bruce Martin	CONTACT INFORMATION: bmartin@corpuschristi.ca
OFFICE HOURS: I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. Regular Zoom drop-in “office hours” are Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. I am also available by Zoom, by appointment.	

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

A study of the basic principles of climate, hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeography, including human induced changes. Laboratory exercises required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to atmospheric and environmental sciences (Geography 103 looks at landforms and landscape formation processes). In Geography 102, students will be introduced to

- causes, changes, and patterns of weather (including hurricanes, tornadoes and other extreme weather conditions),
- physical elements of climate (including seasonal cycles, climate change and global warming),
- spatial differences in ecosystems (including dynamic interrelations of climate, soils, vegetation and biodiversity).

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 102 is complementary to Geography 103. Neither course has any prerequisite. Neither course is a prerequisite for the other.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

1. A basic understanding of atmospheric and ecological processes and patterns related to energy flow, weather, climate, vegetation, soils and ecosystems.
2. An understanding of issues associated with human interaction with weather, climate and the natural environment.
3. Reflection on social and personal ethical issues related to weather, climate, and the natural environment.
4. An awareness of basic techniques and skills used in physical geography including weather mapping and remote sensing technologies.
5. An introduction to the discipline of geography and atmospheric sciences and their relevance to a variety of fields of study.
6. 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. Once you have purchased the eBook (good for 24 months), you can choose to purchase a paper copy for a reduced cost).

To get the text, follow the instructions at at <https://rossway.net/cc102/>. There is also a link to the same instructions in the “Welcome” section on the course Canvas page.

This is also the text for GEOG 103. If you take GEOG 103, you will not have to buy another text! Used copies may be available. Check with other students.

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

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.
- 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 ***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.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

The grading schema for the course is as follows:

	GRADE %
Reading Assignments	5
Zoom Session Attendance	2
Labs	22
Midterm Exam	32
Final Exam	32
Online Discussion	7

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.

Zoom meetings will happen periodically throughout the semester. Attendance will be taken. These are required and count toward your grade. The links will be posted in Announcements on Canvas.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with documented disabilities who may require accommodations must contact the UBC Centre for Accessibility (<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>) as soon as possible.

PERMISSIONS FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING:

By continuing in this course, you acknowledge and agree to the utilization of online video conferencing for academic purposes only. The video conferencing system complies with all requirements of the Personal Information Protection Act SBC 2003, c.63 (PIPA) in regard to collection use and disclosure of information. You acknowledge that collection and possible use of data by Zoom for allowable activities under PIPA. For “Zoom Best Practices” see UBC’s [Zoom student guide](#)

ASSIGNMENTS:

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

1. Reading Assignments (5%)

There will be regular reading assignments from the course notes (at <https://rossway.net/cccl02/>) and text, as indicated in the calendar. You will be asked, as part of every lab, to indicate whether you have or have not done the readings. Because this will be the chief source of information in the course, reading is essential.

2. Zoom Sessions (2%)

There are three required Zoom sessions throughout the semester. Attendance is required and will be recorded.

- September 7, 6 p.m. – course introduction
- October 16, 6 p.m. – Midterm Exam preparation
- November 27, 6 p.m. – Final Exam preparation

3. Labs (22%)

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.

4. Mid-term examination (32%): Friday, October 20, 6-7 pm, on Canvas

The exam will be a Quiz on Canvas. As per College policy, the exam uses a lockdown browser. You will be monitored by Zoom (using a second device like your phone, showing you and your desk). You must be on the Zoom call and keep your CAMERA ON at all times. Please keep your MICROPHONE OFF.

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 1-7 of *Geosystems* and online notes.

5. Participation in a moderated discussion group (7%).

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 (32%)

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 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 Registrar before the last day for withdrawal from classes.

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 8-11, 20 of *Geosystems 4CE* (Chapters 8-10, 20 3CE)
- Christianity and the Environment Issues

The exam will be a Quiz on Canvas. As per College policy, the exam uses a lockdown browser. You will be monitored by Zoom (using a second device like your phone, showing you and your desk). You must be on the Zoom call and keep your CAMERA ON at all times. Please keep your MICROPHONE OFF.

LATE PAPERS:

If a student misses a test or an assignment because of unexpected illness, he or she must provide the instructor a note signed by a physician stating the date and time of the visit to the doctor's office.

EXTENSIONS:

Extensions are only permissible due to illness, with a doctor's note. Please plan accordingly.

MISSED TESTS:

Exams can only be rescheduled due to medical reasons, with a valid 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. Superior grasp of subject matter with sound and penetrating critical evaluations, which identify assumptions of those they study as well as

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

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	Solid critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good evidence of familiarity with literature.
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	Basic critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some evidence of familiarity with literature.
C	60-63	2.0	Barely Acceptable	Acceptable in expression but deficient in analysis or in structure.
C-	55-59	1.67	Needs Improvement	Acceptable in expression but deficient in both analysis and in structure.
D	50-54	1.0	Minimum Pass	Addresses the topic but significant deficiencies in expression, analysis and structure.

FAILED

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS	GRADE POINT	GRASP OF SUBJECT MATTER	OTHER QUALITIES EXPECTED OF STUDENTS
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/ccc102/>, for specific dates.

Week	Date(s)	Course Content	Readings For Each Class	Other Information
1	Sept 6-9	Website, syllabus, and begin 1-2	begin 1-2 notes and text	Zoom Introduction Se 7, 6 p.m.
2	Se 11-16	Atmosphere	3 online notes and text	
3	Se 18-23	Energy Balances	4 online notes and text	Lab 1 due Se 19
4	Se 25-30	Global Temperatures	5 online notes and text	Lab 2 due Se 26
5	Oc 2-9	Atmospheric Circulation	6 online notes and text	Lab 3 due Oc 3
6	Oc 10-14	Water and Atmospheric Moisture	7 online notes and text	
7	Oc 16-21	Midterm! Oct 20, 6-7 pm		Zoom Session Oc 16, 6 p.m.
8	Oc 23-28	Weather	8 online notes and text	
9	Oc 30-No 4	Water Resources	9 online notes and text	
10-11	No 6-18	Climates Systems/Climate Change	10-11 online notes/text	Lab 4 due No 7
12	No 20-25	Biomes and Biogeography	20 online notes and text	Lab 5 due No 14
13	No 27-De 1	Christianity and Environment	Online notes	Lab 6 due No 28 Zoom Session Nov 27, 6 p.m.

Availability

Appointments via Zoom can be scheduled at a mutually convenient time. Please note that I will check email messages at least once per day, Monday-Friday. Therefore Monday-Friday you should receive a response within 24 hours (approximately). I do not do course work on weekends. (Note your labs are due on Tuesdays so you don't have to work Sundays, either! 😊)

Appendix

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RELATED COURSES AT CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE:

GEOG 103 (3): Introduction to Physical Geography: Landforms and Vegetation

GEOG 206 (3): Geography of British Columbia

GEOL 105 (3): Introduction to Physical Geology