



**GEOG 101 ONL: Physical Geography of Canada II Weather, Climate, and Ecosystems**

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Website: <https://rossway.net/bcrest101/>

Course Dates: September-December 2025

3 Credit Hours

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to atmospheric and environmental sciences. 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), and spatial differences in ecosystems (including a dynamic interrelation of climate, soils, vegetation, and biodiversity)

### Text

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). 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 <https://rossway.net/bcrest101/>. There is also a link to the same instructions in the “Welcome” section on the course Canvas page.

Note: this is also the text for GEOG 100. If you take GEOG 100 next Fall, you will not have to buy another text.

The course website is: <https://rossway.net/bcrest101/>. All the resources for the course in addition to the text are on this site.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

## Learning Objectives

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

- A basic understanding of the physical processes and dynamics that have shaped, and continue to influence, the landscape;
- An awareness of basic techniques and skills used in earth & atmospheric sciences;
- An enhanced appreciation of the complex interaction of processes and systems active in the natural environment;
- An introduction to the discipline of geography (earth & atmospheric sciences) and their relevance to a variety of fields of study;
- A basic understanding of Christian perspectives on the natural sciences.

## Course Requirements and Weighting

This course is an online 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:*

- You need to follow along the course homepage: <https://rossway.net/bcrest101/>
- Workload is equivalent to a 3 credit hour class offered on campus--approximately 2 hours of reading (text) and study for each hour of lecture (online notes).
- You will need to be diligent reading the course notes and text; these are the chief sources of information.
- Internet access is essential as a source of information (the text and 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.
- If you are on campus, you may organize a “Study Group” which will meet weekly, to work on labs and help one another understand difficult concepts. The online discussion group provides a forum for dialogue among both on- and off-campus students.

### *Personal Implications:*

- You will need to be self-directed and self-motivated to complete the requirements.
- You will need to be disciplined to complete the assignments on time.
- Study Groups will only be as helpful and productive as you choose to make them. Study Groups can be 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 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 invaluable skills in time management and self-directed learning.

## SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**1. Reading Assignments (5%).** There will be regular reading assignments from the course notes 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. Labs (20%).** You are encouraged to work on your labs in partners or in groups. Often it is helpful to interact with other students – great! However, you must complete your own lab on Canvas! (Remember, your partner[s] may not be correct, anyway!).

**3. Mid-term examination (33.5%).** **Wednesday, October 29, 6-7:30 pm ONLINE on Canvas.** Details to follow.

The midterm exam will be based on lecture material and readings covered in the first half of the term. It will be based on Chapters 2-7 of *Geosystems* and online notes.

**4. Participation in a moderated discussion group (8%).** Over the term you will be expected to join in an online discussion with your classmates on Canvas. 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 must be online. Rather, interact with other posted comments or post your own. (In this sense, it is more of a forum for posted comments than a live chatroom). Your participation will count towards your grade!

Most students really enjoy this!

**5. Final examination (33.5%). – Tuesday, December 9, 6-7:30 pm**

*You have an option in the second half of the course. You may either choose to write the final examination or to complete the final assignment (please note the due date). The choice is yours!*

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:

- Labs 4-6
- Chapters 8-11 of *Geosystems* and online notes
- Christianity and the Environment notes

**OR**

**6. Final Assignment (33.5%). Proposal due November 7. Project due December 5.**

You may either choose to write the final examination or to complete the final assignment (please note the due dates). The choice is yours!

This project may take the form of a research paper or a more creative presentation - original artwork, drama, music, etc. In either case the topic chosen must relate to the subject matter of the course and must demonstrate research beyond the material presented in class.

References **MUST** include at least six (6) published materials such as books, articles, or websites by recognized scholars (credible websites might include government, university, or professional association websites). The project should be (the equivalent) of 10-12 double-spaced pages.

A brief written proposal must be submitted by email to the instructor) by the calendar date, indicating

- your preferred topic,
- a proposed outline of your project, and
- ideas for resources

The due date is firm (late submissions will NOT BE ACCEPTED because there will not be an opportunity to get them graded in time for the mark deadline!). If you miss the due date, you **MUST** write the FINAL EXAM! Note that your project must be email-able by midnight on the due date. (If you do visual art, you can take photos).

Please hand it in on Canvas.

## Course Outline

See the Course Calendar on <https://rossway.net/bcrest101/>

## Availability

Please note that I 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! 😊)

## College Calendar

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest College. Please refer to the College Calendar: <https://www.briercrestcollege.ca/academics/calendar/>

### *Attendance (Semester Course)*

All students missing more than two full weeks of a particular course from registration to the last day of classes will receive an automatic fail (0%).

### *Final Exams*

Students are allowed 3 hours to write their final exams. Students must write their final exams as scheduled. ALL final exams are mandatory. Failure to write a final exam will result in an "F" (0%) for the course.

### *Late Assignments*

Though individual faculty members may disallow late assignments at their discretion, the following is a statement of policy concerning late assignments in Geography 101:

- All assignments are due by midnight on the assigned day.
- Late assignments will receive a penalty of ten per cent per weekday to a maximum of 50 per cent deducted from the total assignment mark. After five weekdays, no late assignments will be accepted, and the grade for that assignment will be zero.

### *Assignment Extension Policy*

- Faculty members do not have the authority to grant extensions beyond 5:00 p.m. of the last day of classes in the semester.

### *Editing*

Another person(s) may read your written work, point out errors or shortcomings (i.e. grammatical errors, structural issues, citations, etc.), and discuss generic solutions, without providing any specific wording to the assignment (i.e. "write x instead of y").

### *Academic Honesty*

As members of the Briercrest learning community, students have a responsibility to conduct themselves with integrity and honour. Students who cheat on exams, plagiarize, inappropriately collaborate, or use generative AI without instructor authorization violate the trust placed in them by their instructors, fellow students, and the college. Any such actions constitute a breach of academic honesty and will result in serious consequences, such as failure of an assignment, failure of a course, or expulsion from the college.

Plagiarism, whether intentional or involuntary, is the submission of the work of others, published or unpublished, in whole or in part without acknowledgment or proper documentation. All information, ideas and/or direct quotations taken from other primary or secondary sources must be documented appropriately.

Generative AI is an umbrella term for a type of machine learning and a group of algorithms that can create new content, such as text, code, images, videos, music, or a combination of all these formats. Generative AI produces output in response to a query or prompt using generative models such as Large Language Models (LLMs) that rely on large datasets. Generative AI features are also often embedded within tools such as Grammarly, allowing these tools to generate new content, such as the rewriting, paraphrasing, or summarizing of existing text. The generated responses of these tools are probabilistic, which can result in errors and biases in responses.

The use of generative AI to create audio or visual media, to produce outlines, to generate partial or complete drafts of assignments, to answer questions on quizzes or exams, or to edit the grammar of assignment drafts is considered unauthorized unless it is explicitly permitted by the course instructor in writing. All use of generative AI tools must be properly documented.

Students are responsible for ensuring they are using their sources and completing their assignments with transparency and honesty. For more details, consult the [College Calendar](#) and the Briercrest Format Guide. In addition to being familiar with these pages, instructors assume that you have completed the Briercrest Academic Integrity course on [Canvas](#) and understand the information contained in it.

### *Academic Accommodations*

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition (mental or physical) who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should contact the ARC Coordinator in person (Room 217 across from Academic Services), by phone (1-306-801-6159), or by email ([arc@briercrest.ca](mailto:arc@briercrest.ca)). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e. medical doctor, psychologist, etc.). It is recommended students meet with their professors to discuss the details of their accommodations (ex: how the student will receive lecture notes, or how the professor wants to receive extension requests).

### *Academic Resource Centre Referral*

At Briercrest, we are a community of learning. Part of being a community means caring for one another. As such, if it is observed that students may benefit from additional support during the semester, they may be referred to the Academic Resource Centre. Neither the referral nor use of supports will appear on academic records.

## Bibliography

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*On soils:*

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*On science and faith issues:*

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