



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

THE CATHOLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Course Syllabus for GEOG 102 PTS

This course is code RED for Generative AI (AI tools NOT allowed)

COURSE NAME	TERM/YEAR:
Introduction to Physical Geography: Weather and Climate	Fall 2025-2 (November-December 2025)
CLASS SCHEDULE	
ONLINE Website: http://rossway.net/cc102-intensive/	
INSTRUCTOR:	CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. Bruce Martin	bmartin@corpuschristi.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	
Zoom Office hours, Wednesdays 1-4 pm, I am available by Zoom, by appointment. I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays.	

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),
- physical elements of climate (including seasonal cycles, climate change and global warming),
- spatial differences in ecosystems (including interrelations of climate, soils, vegetation and biodiversity).

This course will provide students with a 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 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 techniques and skills used in physical geography including weather mapping and remote sensing technologies.
5. An introduction to 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). This is also the text for GEOG 103. If you take GEOG 103, you will not have to buy another text.

To get the text, follow the instructions at <http://rossway.net/cc102-intensive/> and in the “Welcome” section on the course Canvas page.

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. You will be self-directed in your learning. There are several implications of which you need to be aware as you commit to the course:

- The workload for this course is equivalent to any other 3 credit hour class offered on campus
- You must be diligent in reading the course notes and text as these are the chief sources of information.
- You will not spend as much time in class as a traditional course, but more time in personal study.
- 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.
- You will need to be self-directed and disciplined to complete the course requirements.
- You will need to complete assignments ***absolutely on time.***

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

- You are doing as much in 6 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 MUST do the equivalent of 13-week course, so it will be a intense.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

The grading schema for the course is as follows:

	GRADE %
ID	1
Reading Assignments	3
Labs	14
Midterm Exam – on Canvas	33
Final Exam – in-person, on campus, December 15, 1 pm	33
Zoom Attendance	9
Online Discussion	7

Please note that the grade totals on Canvas are unofficial. Official grades are calculated at the end of the semester using Excel to ensure all assignments are weighted properly.

COURSE POLICIES

It is the responsibility of every student to read and understand the College Policies. The College Policies on Attendance, [Academic Honesty](#), Academic Standing, [Academic Concession](#), [Final Exam](#), [Grading Practices](#), [Student Conduct](#), [Technology Usage](#), and more can be found here: <https://corpuschristi.ca/current-students/#Policies>

In addition to the College Policies, this course also upholds the following specific 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.

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) regarding 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](#)

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):

Students are expected to meet the standards of academic honesty set by Corpus Christi College. As the College’s Academic Honesty Policy states, “[a]cts of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on a test, midterm, or examination, improper collaboration, or duplication of the work of another. Some of these actions are so serious that they may lead to expulsion or suspension, while others may result in a grade of zero on an assignment or for a course.” [Please familiarize yourself with policy here.](#)

Academic dishonesty also includes the use of generative AI for coursework you are submitting as drafts or for grading purposes. **This course is Code Red for generative AI. AI use is completely forbidden. Any AI usage (whether in assignment draft or not) means a '0' for the assignment and may result in a failure for the course. The professor will use tools that detect large amounts of copy/paste in documents and discussion posts.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

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

1. ID Requirement

Students **MUST upload a PDF of their photo ID** (in English) through Canvas using the folder provided. This is essential to verify your identity for exams. Acceptable ID is your student card, driver’s license, Canadian residency/work permit or equivalent.

It is College policy that all students must provide photo ID to verify your identity when you write exam. If you do not send this, we cannot verify your identity, and you will receive “0” on the exams.

Please save it with **its title** being **YOUR NAME with which you are registered on Canvas**, so I know it’s you. Please put your surname (family name/last name), a space, then your first (given) name. For instance, I would save my ID pdf as “Martin Bruce.pdf.”

All files will **ONLY** be used for ID during exams and will be deleted at the completion of the course.

2. Reading Assignments

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. The online readings are on the course website:

<http://rossway.net/cc102-intensive/>

3. Labs

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 textbook to be successful. These are open book.

4. Mid-term examination (33%): Date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 6-7:30 PM (Pacific Time), ON CANVAS**

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

The mid-term exam will be based on lecture material and readings from the first half of the term. It will be based on Chapters 1-6 of Geosystems.

- **The exam will be a Quiz on Canvas.**
- **As per College policy, the exam uses a lockdown browser.** You can download the browser on Canvas.
- I have posted a one question Test Quiz to make sure your computer works with the lockdown browser. PLEASE take it. **If you do NOT take the test quiz and your computer does not work for the exam, you will receive “0” on the exam.**
- **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 turn your MICROPHONE OFF. If you are NOT on the Zoom call, or I cannot see you and your workspace/desktop on Zoom, you will receive “0”**

A study guide is here: <http://rossway.net/geography-102-intensive-online-mid-term-study-guide/>

5. Participation in a moderated discussion group

Over the term you will be expected to join in an online discussion with your classmates. During the year you are responsible for participating in and keeping an eye on the discussion. 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 (it is more of a forum for posted comments than a live chatroom).

I am interested in your PERSONAL reflections. If I suspect you are cutting and pasting an answer from another source OR are using AI to generate an answer, you will receive “0.” Your name will be passed on to the Dean for potential disciplinary action.

6. Zoom Attendance

There are required Zoom sessions throughout the semester. See the Course Calendar and Canvas for details. Attendance is required and will be recorded. **Friday, November 6, 6-6:45 pm, Thursday, November 20, 6-7 pm, and Thursday, December 10, 6-7 pm.**

7. Final Examination (In-Person, On Campus)

This exam will be written IN- PERSON, ON CAMPUS on DECEMBER 15, 1-2:30 pm (only exceptions for students who are legitimately resident overseas are permitted). The date and time of the exam has been set by the Registrar’s Office. 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 exam will cover: Chapters 7-11 of *Geosystems 4CE* and Labs 4-5
- The exam will be **ON CAMPUS. Please bring photo ID.** Any academic dishonesty will result in a “0” on the exam and an “F” in the course.
- **If you are resident overseas**, contact the instructor immediately to discuss options.

A study guide is here: <http://rossway.net/cc102/102-intensive-final-exam-study-guide/>

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 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 <http://rossway.net/cc102-intensive/> for specific dates.

There may be occasional online Zoom meetings throughout the course. Details will be in the weekly Announcements.

Week	Date(s)	Course Content	Readings For Each Class
1	Nov 3-8	Website, syllabus, calendar, and 1-2	1-2 online notes and text
2	Nov 10-15	Atmosphere Energy Balances	3 online notes and text 4 online notes and text
3	Nov 17-22	Global Temperatures Atmospheric Circulation	5 online notes and text 6 online notes and text
4	Nov 23-29	Midterm Exam Water and Atmospheric Moisture	7 online notes and text
5	Dec 1-6	Weather Water Resources	8 online notes and text 9 online notes and text
6	Dec 8-13	Climate and Climate Change	10-11 online notes and text
	Dec 15, 1 pm	Final Exam scheduled by Registrar	

Availability

Appointments via Zoom can be scheduled. 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. 😊)

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