



Course Syllabus for GEOG 103 PTS Online

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

COURSE NAME	TERM/YEAR:
Introduction to Physical Geography: Landforms and Soils	Summer 2026 (May-June 2026)
CLASS SCHEDULE	
ONLINE: https://rossway.net/cc103-intensive/	
INSTRUCTOR:	CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. Bruce Martin	bmartin@corpuschristi.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	
I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. I am also available by Zoom, by appointment, on a flexible basis.	

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.

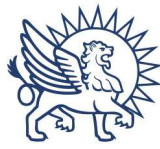
This course will provide students with a basic foundation for further courses in physical geography. The course will also be very beneficial for students interested in other disciplines which consider the natural environment (such as agriculture, ecology or engineering), or fields which deal with human/environment 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 natural landscape.
2. An understanding of issues associated with human interaction with the natural environment.
3. An awareness of basic techniques and skills used in physical geography, including tools such as topographic mapping and geographic information systems.
4. An introduction to the discipline of physical geography and its relevance to other fields of study.
5. Reflection on social and personal ethical issues related to the landscape and natural environment.
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 <http://rossway.net/ccc103-intensive/> and in the “Welcome” section on the course Canvas page.

This is also the text for GEOG 102. If you take (or have taken) GEOG 102, you will use the same text.

Used copies of older print 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 the Corpus Christi/UBC campus. In a normal course, over 13 weeks, the expected workload is 3 hours of lecture (online notes) and 3 hours of reading (textbook). ***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.***



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.
- Study Groups can be one of the most effective – and enjoyable – methods of learning. You are welcome to get together with other students.
- 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.

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	2
Labs	10
Midterm Exam – on Canvas	20
Final Exam – on Canvas AND Zoom Office Hour	50
Zoom Attendance	9
Online Discussion	8

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 [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 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 (e.g. ChatGPT) for coursework you are submitting as drafts or for grading purposes. **Any unauthorized AI usage (whether in assignment draft or not) means a '0' for the assignment.** The student's name will be passed on to the Dean for disciplinary action.

ASSIGNMENTS:

To satisfy the requirements of this course, students must 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 a student card, driver’s license, Canadian residency/work permit, or equivalent.

It is College policy that all students must provide photo ID to verify their identity when they write exams either in-person or online. If you do not provide this, you will receive “0” on the exam.

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 are regular reading assignments from the course notes and text, indicated in the calendar. Each week you will indicate on Canvas whether you have done the readings or not. Because this is the chief source of information in the course, reading is essential. Online notes are <https://rossway.net/cc103-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. Yes, these are open-book. Late labs are not accepted.

There are links to the maps for the labs on Canvas.

4. Mid-term examination: Thursday, June 4, 6-7:30 p.m. PT.

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.

The exam will be a Quiz on Canvas. As per College policy, the exam uses a lockdown browser. You can download the lockdown 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”

Study Guide: <https://rossway.net/geography-103-intensive/103-intensive-midterm-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).

Please do NOT use AI, like CHAT GPT. I am NOT interested in an AI-generated answer. I am interested in your PERSONAL reflections. **An AI answer will get a “0” and the student’s submission will be passed on to the Dean for potential discipline.**

6. Zoom Office Hour Attendance

There are required Zoom sessions throughout the semester. See the Course Calendar and Canvas for details. Attendance is required and will be graded.

- Monday, May 18, 6-7 pm (Introduction)
- Friday, May 29, 6-7 pm (Midterm Exam preparation)
- Monday, June 15, 6-7 pm (Final Exam preparation)



7. Final examination

The date of the exam will be scheduled by the Registrar’s Office. 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 Registrar.

The final exam will be followed up by zoom interview of 10 minutes to verify exam responses, later on the day of the exam. Please keep time available later, on the exam day, for this.

The exam will be a Quiz on Canvas. As per College policy, the exam uses a lockdown browser. You can download the lockdown 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.**

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The final exam will be based

- 25% on material from the beginning of the semester
- 75% on lecture and lab material and readings covered from the mid-term exam until the end of the term (Chapters 16-18 of *Geosystems ACE* and online notes 16-18 and Eolian and Deserts online notes)

The final exam grade will be assigned:

- 70% on the written exam result
- 30% on the 10-minute zoom interview

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



LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS	GRADE POINT	GRASP OF SUBJECT MATTER	OTHER QUALITIES EXPECTED OF STUDENTS
				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 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	



LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS	GRADE POINT	GRASP OF SUBJECT MATTER	OTHER QUALITIES EXPECTED OF STUDENTS
			Pass	
FAILED				
F	0-49	0		Failure to meet the above criteria

COURSE SCHEDULE

See the online course calendar on the website, <https://rossway.net/cc103-intensive/> for specific dates.

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