



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

THE CATHOLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Course Syllabus for GEOG 102 Online

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

COURSE NAME	TERM/YEAR:
Introduction to Physical Geography: Weather and Climate	Fall 2026
CLASS SCHEDULE	
ONLINE: https://rossway.net/ccc102/ The course is asynchronous with the exceptions of (1) two mandatory office hours (on Zoom), (2) a set date and time midterm exam (on Canvas and Zoom), and (3) an in-person, on-campus final exam; date and time set by the Registrar	
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.

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. Students will be introduced to causes, changes, and patterns of weather (including hurricanes, tornadoes and other extreme weather), physical elements of climate (global climates and climate change), and spatial differences in ecosystems (including dynamic interrelations of climate, soils, vegetation and biodiversity). Geography 103 looks at landforms and landscape formation processes.

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 (for example environmental studies, education, social sciences, planning, history, anthropology, or architecture).

Course Pre-requisite(s): None.

Geography 102 is complementary to Geography 103. Neither course has any prerequisite.

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 around 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 in physical geography including weather mapping and remote sensing.
5. An introduction to the disciplines of geography and atmospheric science and their relevance to other fields
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 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 at <https://rossway.net/cc102/>. There is also a link to the same instructions 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, 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 and Personal 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 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***.
- Study Groups can be one of the most effective – and enjoyable – methods of learning. You are welcome to get together with other students.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

The grading schema for the course is as follows:

	GRADE %
ID	1
Reading Assignments	3
Labs	19
Midterm Exam	33
Final Exam	33
Zoom Attendance	4
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. **It also includes attendance in Mandatory Office Hourse, the Midterm Exam (set date and time) and the in-person, on-campus Final Exam – date and time scheduled by the Registrar.** Students should advise their instructors of anticipated absence from the course or absence due to illness.

As per the college Final Exam policy, students who miss more than 25% of course assignments may be barred from writing the final exam.

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 ARTICIAL 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.” Files will **ONLY** be used for ID during exams and will be deleted at the end of the course.

2. Reading Assignments

There will be regular reading assignments from the course online notes (at <https://rossway.net/cc102/>) and text, as indicated in the calendar. You will be asked each week to indicate whether you have or have not done the readings. Because this will be the chief source of information in the course, these readings are essential.

3. Mandatory Office Hours

There are required office hour sessions throughout the semester. See the Course Calendar and Canvas for details. Attendance is required and will be recorded.

- **Either Thursday, September 10, 6-6:45 pm OR Friday, September 11, 6-6:45 pm** (not graded),
- **Either Thursday, October 15, 6-7 pm OR Friday, October 16, 6-7 pm** (graded)
- **Either Thursday, December 3, 6-7 pm OR Friday, December 4, 6-7 pm** (graded).

4. 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. Late labs are not accepted.

5. Mid-term examination: Friday, October 23, 6-7 pm, on Canvas

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 1-7.
- 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 your face, your hands, your computer, and your desk). If you are NOT on the Zoom call, or I cannot see you and your workspace/desktop on Zoom, you will receive “0”

6. 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 for making one entry a week (see the calendar for any exceptions). I will post suggested topics. 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 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 disciplinary action.

7. Final examination – In-person, on-campus (date and time scheduled by the Registrar)

The **date and time of the exam will be announced in the Final Examination Schedule** prepared by the Registrar’s Office. **This exam will be written ON CAMPUS, in person.** 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.

An exam can only be rescheduled due to an official exam conflict or exam hardship. College policy is: “**An exam conflict happens when multiple exams are scheduled on the same day at the same time. An exam hardship is defined as three or more end-of-term exams in a 24-hour period.**”

- 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 and 20 of *Geosystems 4CE* and online notes 8-11 and 20. It will not include Christianity and Environment online notes.
- 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.

LATE PAPERS

Late assignments, including labs, reading reports, and discussion posts are not accepted. If a student misses a test or assignment because of unexpected illness, they must provide the instructor with 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.

AVAILABILITY

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

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.		

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule may be altered. See the online course calendar on, <https://rossway.net/cc102/> for dates.

Week	Date(s)	Course Content	Readings	Other Information
1	Sep 8-12	Website/syllabus, 1-2 Solar Energy	1-2 notes/text	Zoom Sep 10 or 11, 6 pm
2	Sep 14-19	Atmosphere	3 online notes/text	
3	Sep 21-26	Energy Balances	4 online notes/text	Lab 1 due Sep 22
4	Sep 28-Oct 3	Global Temperatures	5 online notes/text	Lab 2 due Sep 29
5	Oct 5-10	Atmospheric Circulation	6 online notes/text	Lab 3 due Oct 6
6	Oct 13-17	Water/Atmospheric Moisture	7 online notes/text	Zoom Oct 15 or 16, 6 pm
7	Oct 19-24	Midterm, October 23, 6-7 pm		
8	Oct 26-31	Weather	8 online notes/text	
9	Nov 2-7	Water Resources	9 online notes/text	Lab 4 due Nov 10
10-11	Nov 9-21	Climate Systems/Climate Change	10-11 online notes/text	Lab 5 due Nov 17
12	Nov 23-28	Biomes and Biogeography	20 online notes/text	Lab 6 due Nov 24
13	Nov 30-Dec 5	Christianity and Env't	Online notes	Zoom Dec 3 o4 4, 6 pm

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**