

Course Syllabus for GEOG 102-1

COURSE NAME Introduction to Physical Geography: Weather and Climate	TERM/YEAR: Fall 2020
<hr/>	
<hr/>	
<hr/>	
OFFICE HOURS:	
Email	

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 awareness of basic techniques and skills used in physical geography;
3. An enhanced appreciation of the complex interaction of processes and systems active in the natural environment;
4. An introduction to the discipline of geography and atmospheric sciences and their relevance to a variety of fields of study;
5. 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 (although there may be resale paper copies available). ID code **martin45727**. Note. Once you have purchased the eBook (good for 24 months), you can choose to purchase a paper copy for an extra fee.

Get started with Mastering

1. Go to <https://registration.mypearson.com/>. Enter your **Course ID martin45727** (copy and paste)
2. Sign in if you have used a Pearson product before OR Create a new account
3. Select your access option
 - a) **Get 14-day temporary access** if you want to try the product first
 - b) **Purchase the access code** with a credit card or PayPal account
 - c) **You may purchase a paper copy of the text for an extra fee**
4. From the "You're Done" page, select "Go To My Courses" to start your course.
5. From now on, you can sign in from www.pearson.com/mylab.

For a video walkthrough of the process:

[Pearson's MyLab & Mastering Registration](#)

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.

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*** in order that they may be forwarded to the instructor.

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.

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

- You are doing as much in 8 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 have to do the equivalent of 13-week course, so it will be a bit intense!

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

The grading schema for the course is as follows:

	GRADE %
Reading Assignments	4
Labs	20
Midterm Exam	35
Final Exam	35
Online Discussion	6

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.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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

1. Reading Assignments (4%)

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/>

2. Labs (20%)

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.

3. Mid-term examination (35%): Date: OCTOBER 8, 2 pm to 3 pm ONLINE

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 covered in the first half of the term. It will be based on:

· Chapters 1-6 of *Geosystems*

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

4. Participation in a moderated discussion group (6%).

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 (35%)

The date of the exam is **TBA (set by the Registrar)**. 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 Academic Committee 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:

- Labs 4-6
- Chapters 8-11, 19-20 of *Geosystems 4CE* (Chapters 8-10, 19-20 3CE)
- Christianity and the Environment Issues

A study guide is here: <http://rossway.net/ccc102/102-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

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS	GRADE POINT	GRASP OF SUBJECT MATTER	OTHER QUALITIES EXPECTED OF STUDENTS
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				
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://rosswav.net/cccl02-intensive/> for specific dates.

There will be an online orientation session on Monday, May 11 at 2 pm PT. See your Announcements for the Zoom link. You will need to download the free Zoom app.

There will 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	Sep 14-29	Website, syllabus, calendar, and 1-2	1-2 online notes and text

Week	Date(s)	Course Content	Readings For Each Class
2	Sep 21-26	Atmosphere Energy Balances	3 online notes and text 4 online notes and text
3	Sep 28- Oct 3	Global Temperatures Atmospheric Circulation	5 online notes and text 6 online notes and text
4	Oct 8	Midterm Exam Online	
5	Oct 12-17	Water and Atmospheric Moisture Weather	7 online notes and text 8 online notes and text
6	Oct 19-24	Water Resources Christianity and the Environment	9 online notes and text Online notes
7	Oct 26-31	Climate and Climate Change	10-11 online notes and text

Availability

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