

GEOG 1503 - Physical Geography

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 40077,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Melissa Phillips

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Melissa Koeka Phillips, Ph.D.

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ph. D., Geography, Kent State University

Master's of Arts, Geography, Kent State University

Bachelor's of Science, Geography, University of Oklahoma

Instructor Office Location: Remote

Instructor Office Phone: Remote

Course Description

1503. Physical Geography. An introductory analysis of selected elements of the natural habitat and their geographic distribution. Includes processes involved in weather, climates, soils, vegetation, and landforms. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation	Darrel Hess; Redina Finch; Dennis G. Tasa	9780135800089

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Syllabus Lecture 1 : The Earth Lecture 2: Earth Geography	Discussion 1 (not graded) Quiz 1: week 1
8/31	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Lecture 3: The Atmosphere Lecture 4: Insolation & Temperature	Discussion 2**
9/7	Chapter 5	Lecture 5: Pressure & Wind	Quiz 2: weeks 2 & 3
9/14	Chapter 6	Lecture 6: Atmospheric Moisture	Discussion 3**
9/21	Chapter 7	Lecture 7: Air Masses & Cyclones	Quiz 3: weeks 4 & 5
9/28	Chapter 8	Lecture 8: Climate	Midterm Preparation
10/5	Chapter 9	Lecture 9: The Hydrosphere	Midterm: weeks 1 - 7
10/12	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	Lecture 10: The Biosphere Lecture 11: Flora & Fauna	None
10/19	Chapter 12	Lecture 12: Soils	Quiz 4: weeks 8 & 9
10/26	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	Lecture 13: Landforms Lecture 14: Tectonics	Discussion 4**
11/2	Chapter 15	Lecture 15: Weathering & Mass Wasting	Quiz 5: weeks 10 & 11
11/9	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Lecture 16: Fluvial Processes Lecture 17: Dissolution & Hydrothermals	Discussion 5**



11/16	Chapter 18	Lecture 18: Arid Lands	Quiz 6: weeks 12 & 13
11/23	Chapter 19 Chapter 20	Lecture 19: Glaciers Lecture 20: Coastal Topography	Quiz 7: week 14
11/30	None	None	Final Preparation
12/7	Good luck during finals week!	Don't skip sleep!	Final: weeks 8 - 14 Due: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 11:59 PM

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