Geography 352U: The Himalaya and Tibet

Special Focus for Summer, 2015: Nepal

Two weeks of classes: MTWT June 22 to July 2 plus one week

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The region defined by the Himalaya-Hindukush and the Tibetan Plateau stands high on the earth’s surface and in the imagination of the Western world. The headwaters for most of Asia's important rivers, the region has also given rise to great religions and scholarly traditions, as well as an extraordinary richness of both physical and cultural landscapes. Normally, this class surveys all of High Asia, from Afghanistan to Arunachal, the Kunlun Shan to the Terai. This special summer offering of GEOG 352 will focus on Nepal, a small country centered in the Himalayan arc that encompasses most of the diversity found in the wider region.

We have all come to know Nepal through pictures and stories of environmental calamity, human devastation, and heroic rescue. We will use this spring’s catastrophic earthquakes as a focus to link the physical landscape to human history and contemporary processes of politics and development, and to try to imagine what the future holds for Nepal and the wider region.

The class is a hybrid, crammed into two weeks of in-class and online sessions (with an extra week to complete a substantial research project). Class sessions will be divided into lecture (sometimes by visiting experts) and discussion, and will make substantial use of films and slides. Students will be introduced to the land and life of Nepal and High Asian, and will pursue their own interests in research projects which may involve any part of the region and a wide range of topics. One session—at least!—will be devoted to the yak.

**BASIS OF GRADING**

**Attendance and Participation** (20%)

**Research project** (30%) a short paper (6-8 pp)

**Online and in-class tests and exercises** (20%)

**Book review** (25%)

**READING**

Zurick and Pacheco,  *Illustrated Atlas of the Himalaya*
Book from list provided (or approved alternative)
Substantial other readings TBA