Changing landscapes in the Himalaya

A cross-disciplinary course (GEOL6021T) July 30 to August 16, 2018



Students and faculty at 17,500 ft above sea level in front of a Himalayan glacier

This course will examine the nature and consequences of environmental change in the western Indian Himalaya. Our goal is to better understand the nature and dynamics of natural processes, past, present and future human impacts, and how one might protect, plan, and design for a sustainable future in the Himalaya. We will consider landscape change (e.g., mountain building, glaciation, erosion), geohazards (landsliding, flooding and earthquakes), ecology, and complex socio-economic and cultural issues, including those surrounding the growing eco-tourism industry. The course is open to all students from any discipline. NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF GEOLOGY IS NEEDED. The course is in two parts: 1) in-class session in spring semester; and 2) 18-day-long field trip in July-August 2018.



Typical Himalayan Classroom at 12,000 feet above sea level.

Prior to traveling, students will be introduced to the various disciplines needed to understand the complex scientific, socio-economic, and political issues inherent in the study of environmental change in the Himalaya.



Sleeping on a glacier at 17,500 feet above se level





Installing and demonstrating how to use a water filter in a monastery school in Ladakh (left) and our jeeps on a typical Himalayan road (right).



For further information and to possibly enroll on this course please e-mail Professor Lewis Owen at Lewis.Owen@uc.edu