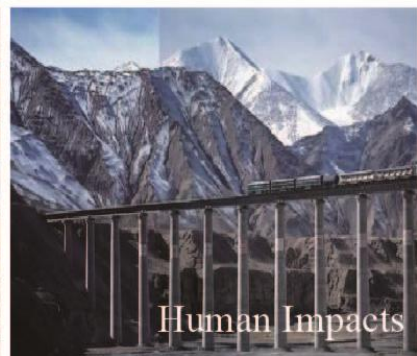
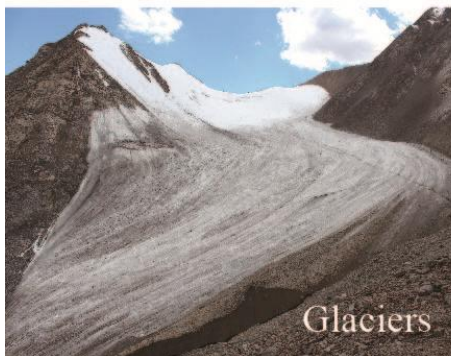
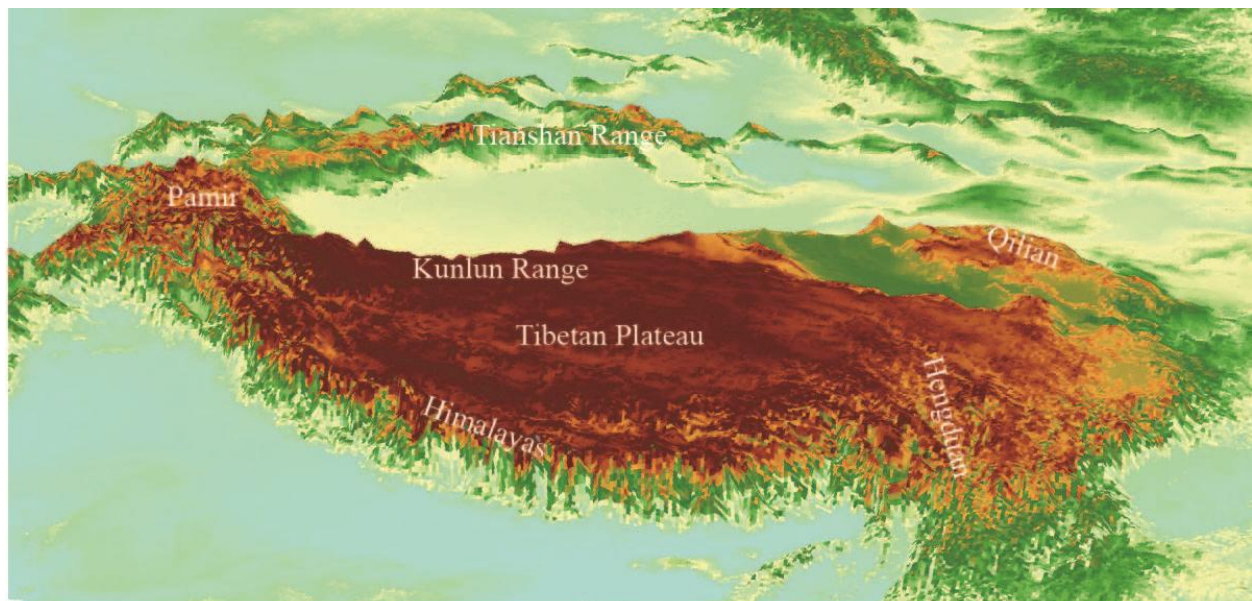


# Geography 533: Topics in Physical Geography: Environmental Change in High Asia

Spring 2013, Monday 5:05–7:45 pm in Room 401 Burchfiel Geography Building

Instructor: Yingkui (Philip) Li

High Asia, in particular the Tibetan Plateau and its surrounding mountains, is regarded as the “Third Pole” on Earth. With an average elevation of over 4000 m, it is the highest plateau and mountainous area on Earth, and includes every peak in the world over 8000 m, among them Mt. Everest (8844 m) and K2 (8611 m). Due to its high altitude and large area, High Asia plays a significant role in the Earth’s climate system. With continuous climate change, environmental conditions in High Asia changed significantly in the past. Climates and environments will continue to change in the future, posing a potential threat to the livelihoods of over 1.5 billion people in more than 10 countries in Central, South, and East Asia, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Geography 533 in Spring 2013 will explore these past and future changes.



**Geography 533** looks at the broad range of environmental changes in High Asia, including changes in glaciers, snow cover, lakes, rivers, permafrost, and vegetation, as well as the increasing human impact on the environment. It is a seminar-format course (students lead most discussions) open to all interested students, including advanced undergraduates. Geography 430, and 433 provide related background, but other physical geography, geology, or environmental courses can be substituted. Please contact the instructor, Dr. Yingkui (Philip) Li ([yli32@utk.edu](mailto:yli32@utk.edu)), if you are unsure of your background or have other questions.