

Featured Program Activities

Most days will consist of a morning lecture and afternoon field trip or a day-long field trip. Just a few of the planned activities include:

- Orientation to Nepal's religion, culture, history, customs, politics, and geography by Kathmandu University faculty
- Trips to local non-governmental organizations to learn about sustainable river technologies and to see microfinance in action
- A trek to the village of Sundarijal and the origin of the Holy Bagmati River
- Hiking to Chobhar gorge to visit temples along the lower Bagmati River
- A visit to a health institute to learn about health issues in Nepal
- Trips to villages on the outskirts of Kathmandu to see village life and sample Newari cuisine



The Holy Bagmati River



The University of
New Mexico
www.unm.edu



Kathmandu
University
www.ku.edu.np

For more information:

Dr. Alok K. Bohara
Professor of Economics, UNM
bohara@unm.edu
505 277-5903

Dr. Jennifer Thacher
Professor of Economics, UNM
jthacher@unm.edu
505 277-1965

For a detailed program schedule, pictures, information on travel grants, and more, please visit the

Nepal Study Center website:

<http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/>

and click the "Himalayan Study Abroad Program" link.



Himalayan Study Abroad Program: Society and the Environment

Kathmandu, Nepal

Department of Economics
Nepal Study Center
University of New Mexico



Navajo sand painting.

**2 Rivers,
2 Geographies,
2 Peoples,
2 Cultures**



Nepali sand Mandala.



nepalstudycenter@unm.edu

Study Abroad in Nepal

The purpose of this program is to introduce students to the ecologies and cultures of the Rio Grande in New Mexico and the Bagmati River in Nepal. The first part of this interdisciplinary program is Economics 203: Environment and Society, a 3-credit hour Economics course which investigates the causes and consequences of environmental problems, including interrelated physical and social science dimensions. The course will be offered in Spring 2009 and will focus on contrasting and comparing the Rio Grande and the Bagmati River.

The second part of this program is a 2-week study abroad in Kathmandu



Durbar Square in Kathmandu.

Nepal in May/June

2009. Enrollment in

Economics 203 is not a pre-requisite for participating in the study

abroad program, though

preference will be given to Econ 203 students.

The Kathmandu program will focus on the Bagmati River in Nepal, and will include field trips, excursions, and lectures from Kathmandu University faculty. All instruction is in English; **no knowledge of Nepali is required.**

About Nepal

A small Himalayan country between India and China, Nepal has astoundingly diverse landscapes, ecologies, and people. With vast plains, tropical rainforests, and the highest mountains in the world (including Mount Everest), Nepal is home to Bengal tigers, one-horned rhinoceroses, snow leopards, and a myriad other exotic and endangered species.



A typical Nepali village

Nepal is home to many cultures, from the mountain-dwelling Sherpa to the plains-dwelling Tharus. Dozens of languages are spoken in Nepal, though English is commonly used, particularly in Kathmandu. Hindu-

ism and Buddhism are the two most common religions in Nepal; most people practice a blend of the two religions, especially in the Kathmandu Valley. The Bagmati River is considered holy by both Hindus and Buddhists.

Despite its natural wealth and potential for eco-tourism, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Though nearly 20% of the country is preserved as national parks, Nepal still faces many of the environmental problems typical of developing countries. The focus of the program is the relation of the environment and ecology of the Bagmati River to the river's people and their economic development, health, and culture.

Program Costs

The program fee for the summer study abroad program will be between \$1000 and \$1500. **Included in this fee** are:

- Room and board (breakfast and lunch) in Kathmandu
- Local transportation
- Field trips and nature hiking
- Guest lectures from Kathmandu University



Kathmandu University

Not included in the program fee are:

- Tuition (for those wishing to earn class credit for study abroad)
- Roundtrip airfare to Kathmandu
- Passport fee
- Dinners
- Mandatory travel insurance (\$36)
- Other personal expenses



A ritual along the Bagmati River, Kathmandu.

Limited travel grants are available from UNM and other sources. Students are encouraged to apply for UNM's Regents International Study Grants and International Studies Institute Scholarships.