Course Description:
As we move deeper into the 21st century, one thing seems certain: the state of the world is uncertain. Whether it be climate change, biodiversity loss, forest fires, food insecurity, or pandemic, it is clear societies face numerous challenges that threaten to undermine human health and well-being. In this course we examine the roots of these challenges, focusing primarily on climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, we ask questions about how these two emergencies came to be, how they are connected, and how we might respond to them in just, equitable, and courageous ways.

This course offers an introduction to key concepts in the discipline of geography. Course materials reflect a range of concerns related to climate change and pandemic as well as diverse approaches to understanding them. Instruction is entirely online but will be interactive, discussion-based, and will draw on environmental data and creative concepts to strategize how to face forward and build better futures.

This course aims to:
- Introduce students to foundational concepts in geography and political ecology.
- Offer insights into the social, political and economic aspects of climate change and pandemic.
- Provide a global comparative framework for understanding social and environmental risk.
- Improve student writing and communication skills.

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Have an informed conversation about the multiple dimensions of social and environmental change.
- Recognize and assess how these changes impact their lives.
- Explain how and why social, political and/or environmental crises unevenly affect different populations.
- Analyze existing and proposed environmental policy and legislation.
- Advocate for social and/or environmental policy choices using the skills and knowledge gained in this course.