What's Wrong with the World? How Do We Fix It?
Perspectives and Solutions from the Environmental Humanities and Social Sciences

INT 133B, Summer Session A 2018, Monday-Thursday, 12:30-3:20 pm, Phelps 1160

This 8-unit course will be team taught by
John Foran, Professor of Sociology and co-founder of The Climate Justice Project &
Ken Hiltner, Professor of English and Director of the Environmental Humanities Center.

Scholarships: This course has 20 scholarships allocated to it. Each is worth $2000. Scholarships will be awarded based on an application that consists of your UCSB transcript and a short (1 single-spaced page) essay explaining financial need and interest in the course and its themes. If interested e-mail foran@soc.ucsb.edu

In this course, we will investigate the future, asking what might the world look like in the year 2050? What will be the state of climate change? What will schools, cities, agriculture, jobs, nations, energy sources, technology, political systems, international relations, global and local economies, and much more look like? How will people make sense and meaning of their world? What future worlds can we foresee from where we are now, ranging widely and wildly from the awful to the utopian? How will we get to the better worlds we hope to be living in?

Starting with the current political, economic, cultural, and climate crises of Earth and humanity, we consider alternatives to the present system – sustainable development, degrowth, transition towns, resilience – and our roles in building a far better world by 2050. We will also consider the ways that climate change is being fiercely debated on the public stage through a careful look at the rhetoric of these debates.

(Image from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7k8TegnNfk)

This course will involve immersive, project-based work, such as role playing, creative productions, group projects, field trips, and others. This is not a multiple choice, mid-term and final class! Essential to this course will be a collaborative model of discovering, curating, and analyzing material.