This course will explore the history, contemporary situation, and future possibilities regarding the interlinked realms of the environment, historical trauma, and social movements in Japan. Topics will include the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings and the subsequent peace and anti-nuclear movements, the environmental movement in Japan, and the “triple disaster” earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear power plant disaster in Fukushima and Northeastern Japan. We will also discuss how environmental issues intersect with other current social issues such as rural depopulation, an aging population, and gender and economic inequality, and study a variety of contemporary approaches to addressing these issues. In addition, under the guidance of Lang Professor for Social Change Denise Crossan, we will study the theory and practice of social entrepreneurship as a vehicle for social change and explore possible applications of this model in Japan.

In addition, the course will offer a 0.5 Experiential Learning practicum following the end of the spring class term, in which we will travel to the Tohoku and Hiroshima areas to engage in discussions and exchanges with on-site partners in environmental studies, peace studies, and social entrepreneurship (number of participants is limited).