In modern times, the pace of human-driven change accelerated, launching our world into the era known as the Anthropocene. Propelled by migrations, intercontinental trade, fiscal-military states, new science, fossil fuels, mass production, imperialism, factory farming, and electronic devices, humans created societies of breathtaking size, complexity, and impact. Human population densities soared, while at the same time people experienced devastating regional, ethnic, and religious conflicts. This course examines these developments, confident that the accurate reconstruction of past events sheds light on the present day and helps people better understand and better thrive in today’s world. Students will read *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari, students will analyze primary sources, students will write reflective essays, and students will complete and present a research paper.