For centuries, Americans have grappled with a defining question: who belongs here, and on what terms? We ask what has motivated ordinary citizens', elites', and policy-makers' various answers to this question, why their answers have changed over time, what the consequences of different answers have been (and, for the roads not taken, might have been), and in what ways different answers have reflected and reinforced American exceptionalism. Our focus is on contemporary U.S. immigration politics (since 1965), but we will make regular comparisons to earlier periods and to the postwar politics of immigration in Europe. Classes will include lecture, discussion, and debate.