Over 4 million people have entered the United States as refugees, ‘parolees,’ and asylees since the end of WWII. This seminar examines the humanitarian challenges that produced these refugee migrations, and the ways these refugees challenged our understanding of the United States as a ‘haven for the oppressed.’ We will examine how refugee/asylum policy evolved since the end of the Second World War, and the foreign-policy interests and security concerns that have shaped its contours. During the final weeks of the course we will pay particular attention to our changing definitions of refugees and asylees in the post-Cold War/post-9-11 period.