Course Description: The title of our course is “Political Power and Social Justice”. One expects that we will ask: ‘What justifies political power?’ and ‘What criteria determine social justice?’ However, note that these two questions, stated in this manner, say nothing of the nation-state. We may as well be speaking of political power in a kingdom, religious community, institutional framework, or simply city legislature. We may as well be inquiring about social justice in the extended family, in the workplace, or global community.

This sliding marker of what type of community is at stake or how big of a context of human association is to be studied already points to the challenge of determining the precise meaning of ‘community’, ‘state’, or ‘citizen’. Thus, this semester we will inquire into political power and social justice in the context of issues of immigration and citizenship.

What entitles one to citizenship? What rights are entailed by this title? Is being a citizen equivalent to being part of a community? What happens when the latter is not sufficient to entitle one to the former? Is cultural unity or historical inheritance of language and tradition relevant in considering belonging and membership in a community—how about citizenship in a state? And to confuse this picture, might we not ask, why should the contingent matter of one’s birth not only limit but predominantly determine one’s freedom of movement as well as one’s choice of life possibilities? These are some of the very current and very complex questions and issues we will be delving into this semester.

Course Goals: Students who successfully complete this course will
1. demonstrate understanding of the nature of political community, political membership, rights, and citizenship;
2. research and compare diverse approaches to immigration policies:
3. study and report on primary philosophical texts;
4. write an argumentative paper that establishes a relevant and well-researched framework and addresses a contentious question concerning citizenship and immigration, such as policies regarding Dreamers or refugee policies of contemporary USA.

Required Books:

Assignments (and percentage of final grade):
- Participation 15%
- Reading Responses 30%
- Leading Discussion 15%
- Final Research paper 30%
- Oral Presentation 10%
Participation (15 %): This is an upper-level seminar, one that should prepare you for seminars in graduate school. A seminar is a course format that regards and treats the participants as equal partners in dialogue and evenly distributes the responsibility of collective inquiry among them. To aspire to fulfill this ideal, everyone must complete the reading before coming to class and have the assigned text with them during class. Missing class or tardiness will result in lower participation grades.

Reading Responses (30 %): In these reading responses, you will be asked to (1) answer a question about the reading, or (2) analyze a key passage from the reading, or (3) evaluate an argument the author presents. The reading responses should be between 300-500 words (one-two pages). Whether you are answering a question, analyzing a passage or evaluating an argument, make sure you include at least one key quotation from the text that supports your position, and make sure you give page numbers for the passages you quote.

These reading response assignments will be due on the day we will discuss a reading selection. The days that they are due are marked on the syllabus—see Response 1, 2, etc. Bring them to class, printed-out. I will not accept hand-written or late reading responses. There are twenty possible reading responses throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, you should have completed ten reading responses. Everyone has to complete the first four reading responses, the remaining six responses you may choose from the remaining options.

Your entry will be graded on a scale of A to D based on whether 1) your essay is logical and correctly captures the author’s position, 2) your essay addresses the prompt, 3) your writing is clear and without grammatical errors, 3) your essay is well-organized and to the point—introducing your aim, heeding the context of the author’s project, explaining the meaning of the passages you quote, and concluding with an interpretation of its significance. An essay that fulfills the above criteria will earn an ‘A’. Failing to fulfill the criteria will result in lower grades.

Leading Discussion (15 %): Discussion leaders are responsible for (1) preparing and posting on Blackboard a 1-2-page handout that introduces, explains, and critically discusses the reading selection they are responsible for; (2) leading discussion in class on their assigned day. The handout should introduce the reading, identify key concepts, present the main argument, and open class discussion through explicative or evaluative questions. Make sure that you include concrete references to the text with citation.

Final research paper (30 %): Your research paper must address a current issue regarding citizenship and immigration. Your paper must use at least two of our authors as well as three other sources of scholarly literature that address the topic of your choice. I will meet with you individually during October to help you begin thinking about your topic. The paper must be 8-12 pages in length, use Chicago style citation, include at least five works cited. The final draft is due December 15th, 9 a.m.

Oral presentation (10 %): You will present either a PowerPoint or a Poster presentation of your final paper during our final exam time, December 14th, 2-4:30. I strongly recommend that you choose the Poster presentation option so you may submit it to one of the poster competitions at CSUB.

Course Policies
1. All work is expected to be original; plagiarism will be dealt with per the College Catalog, which can result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the university.
2. All work must be typed, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with regular one-inch margins.
3. In-class work cannot be made up if you are absent.
4. I will not accept any e-mailed, handwritten or late assignments.
Calendar

**Week One:**
8.27  Introductions and Syllabus

*Theoretical Groundwork: Universal Human Rights and/or Democratic Sovereignty*
8.29  ‘No human is illegal’

**Week Two:**
9.3   Holiday: Labor Day
9.5   Kant “Perpetual Peace” https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1795_1.pdf

**Week Three:**
9.10  Benhabib Ch. 1 (pp. 25-48)
      On Hospitality: Rereading Kant’s cosmopolitan right
9.12  Arendt “The Perplexities of the Rights of Man” (Handout)

**Week Four:**
9.17  Benhabib Ch. 2 (pp. 49-69)
      “The right to have rights”: Hannah Arendt on the contradictions of the nation-state
9.19  Benhabib Ch. 3 (pp. 71-106)
      The Law of Peoples, distributive justice, and migrations

**Week Five:**
9.24  Benhabib Ch. 3 (pp. 106-128)
      Global Redistribution: Objections and Replies
9.26  Benhabib Ch. 4 (pp. 129-169)
      Transformations of citizenship: the European Union

**Week Six:**
10.1  Benhabib Ch. 5 (pp. 171-198)
      Democratic iterations: the local, the national, and the global
10.3  Benhabib Ch. 5 (pp. 198-221)
      Redefining the nation, cosmopolitan federalism

*A Bit of Intellectual History: The Uses and Abuses of Patriotism*

**Week Seven:**
10.8  Rorty *Achieving Our Country* Ch. 1 (1-38)
      American National Pride: Whitman and Dewey
10.10 Rorty Ch. 2 (41-71)
      The Eclipse of the Reformist Left

**Week Eight:**
10.15 Rorty Ch. 3 (75-107)
      A Cultural Left
10.17 Rorty Appendixes (pp. 111-140)
      Movements and Campaigns, The Inspirational Value of Great Works of Art
History of American Immigration: Struggles of Inclusion and Exclusion

Week Nine
10.22 Gerber *American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction* (pp. 1-64)
    Part I: The law of immigration and the legal construction of citizenship
10.24 Gerber (pp. 65-100)
    Part II: Emigration and immigration from international migrants’ perspectives

Week Ten
10.29 Gerber (pp. 101-135)
    Part III: The dialogue of ethnicity and assimilation

Cosmopolitanism: Case Studies, Moral Dilemmas, Questions of Identity
10.31 Appiah *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers* “Introduction”

Week Eleven
11.5 Appiah Ch. 1 and 2 (pp. 1-31)
    Relativism and Positivism
11.7 Appiah Ch. 3 and 4 (pp. 33-67)
    Moral Disagreement

Week Twelve
11.12 HOLIDAY: Veterans Day
11.14 **Final Paper Workshop**

Week Thirteen
11.19 Appiah Ch. 5 and 6 (pp.69-99)
    Do We Need Universals?
11.21 Appiah Ch. 7 and 8 (pp. 101-135)
    Cultural Purity

Week Fourteen
11.26 Appiah Ch. 9 and 10 (pp. 137-174)
    Obligations to Strangers

Open Borders: A Radical Proposal?
11.28 Carens *Immigrants and the Right to Stay* (pp. 3-26)
    The Case for Amnesty

Week Fifteen
12.3 Carens (pp. 27-51)
    State’s rights
12.5 Carens Forum of Respondents (pp. 55-79)
    Ngai, Swain, and Massey

Week Sixteen
12.10 Carens Forum of Respondents (pp. 81-111)
    Bosniak, Elshtain, Aleinikoff

12.14 Final Exam Period: **Oral Presentations (2 pm-4:30 pm)**
12.15 Final papers due