



Format revised 2023
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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY / CRIMINOLOGY

COURSE TITLE: CONTEMPORARY MAFIA AND ANTIMAFIA

COURSE CODE: LAHSHM390 / LACRCM390

3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

The course presents the specific structural and phenomenological aspects of the various types of mafia operating at present times in Italy and internationally. It analyses contemporary criminal, social, cultural and political features of mafia-type groups, exploring traditional and emerging illegal markets. It describes main Italian and international law policies and legislations to contrast this type of organised crime and the experiences of leading individuals and groups developing a culture of legality to combat the mafia.

2. OBJECTIVES

The course aims at providing students with instruments of knowledge, comprehension, application, evaluation and synthesis on the topic by being able to:

- Define specific elements characterising mafia as compared to other criminal organisations
- Describe the relevance of key concepts like violence, death, honour, shame within mafia
- Identify contemporary illegal markets
- Explain the historical, economic, political and social elements of Italian mafia organisations
- Evaluate the relationships with religion and gender
- Indicate, analyse and compare the range of instruments and strategies to fight against the mafia
- Organise and present a research paper on a topic by choice -
- Enhance participation and constructive critical sense through class discussions.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, projects. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

- Dickie J., *Cosa Nostra. A History of the Sicilian Mafia*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2004

The textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

- Arlacchi, P., *Mafia Business: The Mafia Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Verso, 1987.
- Dickie J., *Cosa Nostra*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2004
- Duggan C., *Fascism and Mafia*, Yale University Press, 1989
- Jamieson A., *The Antimafia – Italy's Fight against Organised Crime*, St. Martin's Press, 2000.
- Longrigg C., *Mafia women*, vintage Paperback, new ed. 1998
- Orlando L., *Fighting the mafia*, Encounter Book, 2001
- Saviano R., *Gomorrah*, McMillian, 2007
- Saviano R., *Zero Zero Zero*, Penguin Books, 2014
- Santino U. & Dickie J., *Mafia and Antimafia: a history*, I.B. Tauris, 2014
- Stille A., *Excellent Cadavers*, Jonathan Cope Ed., 1995
- Seindal, R. *Mafia, Money and Politics in Sicily 1950-1997*, Museum Tusculanum Press, 1998.
- Siebert. R., *Secrets of Life and Death: Women and the Mafia*, Verso Ed., 1996

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times of the university library. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

BIBLIOTECA PALAGIO DI PARTE GUELFA

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

THE HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance

10% Class Participation

15% Assignments

20% Midterm exam (or special/research project)

25% Final Exam

20% Research Paper

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

Absences are based on academic hours: 1 absence equals 3 lecture hours.

Two absences: 6 lecture hours, attendance and participation grade will be impacted.

Three absences: 9 lecture hours, the final grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

Four absences: 12 lecture hours, constitutes automatic failure of the course regardless of when absences are incurred.

Please note:

- The above hours refer to lecture hours. Please note that the contact / credit hour policy in the academic catalog includes additional distribution ratios according to delivery category. Ex: 1 absence equals 6 FL/SL/Lab hours or 9 EL hours.

- Hours may be distributed in different formats according to the academic course schedules.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

TRAVEL (OR DELAYS DUE TO TRAVEL) IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS.

It is the student's responsibility to know how many absences are incurred. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

Participation: Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work, proper care of work space and tools, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also apply to Field Learning and site visits.

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

Note: be aware that the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason so organize your personal schedule accordingly.

Assignments aim at documenting your knowledge and understanding on specific aspects relating to the course topic and count for a 15% of the final grade. They have to be returned by the beginning of following class, printed or hand-written and they will be checked and discussed in class.

Please be aware that late assignments will not be accepted in any form and the related grade for that assignment will be F corresponding to 0 points. The text of the assignments is in the online course folder and the specific instructions will be given in class in their due time.

There will be a **Midterm** and a **Final exam** consisting of essay and short questions on lectures and readings of the course-pack.

Format: both exams are divided into three sections:

- Part I: 10 Multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 2 points, for a total of 20 points.
- Part II: 10 short-answer questions. Each correct and complete answer (concise explanations, main ideas, key words, names, etc.) is worth 5 points, for a total 50 points.
- Part III: two essay questions; each correct and complete answer is worth 15 points (based on content, vocabulary, detail, etc.) for a total of 30 points.

The **Research Paper** accounts for 20% of the final course grade. It consists of group research (to be realized in small groups of at least 3 students. Research is meant to discover information and explore ideas.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to the course What is Mafia: Characteristics and Specificities; Deconstructing the Stereotypes
Objectives	Inform on the level, requirements, and main contents and practices of the course Define specific elements characterising mafia as compared to other criminal organisations
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Umberto Santino, “Mafia and Mafia-type organisations in Italy”; Renè Seindal, “Background and Terminology”, in <i>Mafia: Money and politics</i> , Univ. of Copenhagen Press; John Dickie, “Introduction”, “Men of honour”, “The so-called Maffia: how the mafia got his name”, in <i>Cosa Nostra</i>

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Main Types of Mafia in Italy: Cosa Nostra, Camorra, 'Ndrangheta, Sacra Corona Unita: Internal Structures and Illegal Traffics
Objectives	Illustrate the different internal structures and identify the specific criminal traffics
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Renè Seindal, “The Mafia’s business dealings”, in <i>Mafia (...)</i> , cit. Libera ed., “The Criminal Markets”, in <i>Europe exists but also the mafias</i> ; Umberto Santino, “From the mafia to transnational crime” Summary on Drug and Human Trafficking

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Social and Cultural Background of 'Ndrangheta and Camorra The Drug and Waste Trade: A Global Reality
Objectives	Analyse the social and cultural environment of these two mafia organisations and their role in these global criminal markets
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Roberto Saviano, “Cocaine” in <i>Zero Zero Zero, 2013</i> , “Land of fires”, “Hollywood”, in <i>Gomorrah, 2002</i> ASSIGNMENT 1

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Roles Inside the Mafia: The So-Called “Men of Honour” and Women
Objectives	Evaluate the relationships with the social and cultural environment of 'Ndrangheta

	and the relevance of gender inside the different types of Mafia
Readings/ Assignments	Giovanni Falcone, "Power" in <i>Men of Honour, selected pages</i> Pino Arlacchi, "The behaviour of the mafioso" in <i>Mafia business</i> Claire Longrigg, "Introduction", "The sins of the Mother", "Vendetta by law", in <i>Mafia Women</i> , London, Vintage, 1998

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mafia and Religion: The God of Mafiosi and Brave Frontline Priests
Objectives	Analyse the role of religion and of the Church in the mafia culture
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Roberto Saviano, "Don Peppe Diana", in <i>Gomorrah, cit.</i> ASSIGNMENT 2

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Origins of Contemporary Political Connections to the Mafia Review for Midterm Exam
Objectives	Explain the historical and political roots of mafia organisations; clarify doubts on the content of the exam
Readings/ Assignments	Christopher Duggan, selected pages from <i>Mafia and Fascism</i> Alexander Stille, selected pages from <i>Excellent cadavers</i> Renè Seindal, "The political mafia", in <i>Mafia: Money and politics, cit.</i> John Dickie, "Socialism, Fascism, Mafia", "War and rebirth", "God, concrete, heroin and Cosa Nostra", in <i>Cosa Nostra</i>

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	MIDTERM EXAM

Lesson 8	
NA	ACADEMIC BREAK

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Law Enforcement Against the Mafia; The First Defeat of the Mafia: The Maxi-Trial and the Anti-Mafia Pool in Palermo
Objectives	Indicate and analyse the legal and judicial instruments to fight against the mafia
Readings/ Assignments	Law Enforcement in Italy and Europe against mafia and organised crime John Dickie, "The first mafia war and its consequences", "Terra infidelium", in <i>Cosa Nostra</i> ASSIGNMENT 3

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Denouncing the Mafia: The Antimafia of Journalists and Media
Objectives	Analyse the role of journalism and mass media in portraying and denouncing the mafia
Readings/ Assignments	John Dickie, From "The origins of the second mafia war", in <i>Cosa Nostra</i> Umberto Santino, "Giuseppe Impastato: his actions, his murder, the investigation and the cover up"

	ASSIGNMENT 4
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Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Antimafia of New Generations: The Fight Against Extortion of Addiopizzo and the Ethical Consumption
Objectives	Organise and present a research paper on a topic by choice, demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills. Analyse the relevance of extortion and the newest strategies against it
Readings/ Assignments	John Dickie, From “Bombs and submersion”, in <i>Cosa Nostra</i> Alison Jamieson, “The grass-root Antimafia”, in <i>The Antimafia cit.</i>

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Antimafia of Culture: voices breaking the silence
Objectives	Organise and present a research paper on a topic by choice, demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills. Analyse the role of education to citizenship against the mafia
Readings/ Assignments	John Dickie, From “Ricotta cheese and ghosts”, in <i>Cosa Nostra</i>

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The role of civil society: The antimafia after the massacres in 1992-1993 Women against the Mafia, LIBERA
Objectives	Organise and present a research paper on a topic by choice, demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills.
Readings/ Assignments	R.Siebert, “Mothers, sisters and widows in mourning. Women alone” “Women of Men against the Mafia”, in <i>Secrets of Life and Death – Women and the Mafia</i> , Verso, London, NY, 1996 Alison Jamieson, “Introduction” and “The significance of 1992” “The political response”, in <i>The Antimafia: Italy’s Fight against Organised Crime</i> , New York, St. Martin Press, 2000

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	A culture of legality Review for Final Exam
Objectives	Compare antimafia strategies analysed; clarify doubts on the content of the exam
Readings/ Assignments	Leoluca Orlando, “From a culture of lawfulness to an economy of legality”

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM