



SAS – SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY / CRIMINOLOGY
COURSE TITLE: HISTORY OF THE MAFIA
COURSE CODE: LAHSHM380 / LACCMHM380
3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course discusses the origins and development of the Mafia in the context of Italian politics, economics, and society from the nineteenth century to the present day. It analyzes the nature of Mafia activities and their international relevance. Special focus will be given to judicial procedures against the Mafia and the experiences of key individuals and groups contrasting their illegal activities.

2. OBJECTIVES

The course aims at providing students with instruments of knowledge, comprehension, application, evaluation and synthesis on the topic. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define specific elements characterizing mafia as compared to other criminal organizations
- Describe the internal structures and the characteristics of the four types of Italian mafias
- Understand the historical roots and evolution of mafia from its origins to contemporary times
- Identify key illegal markets and their global impact
- Explain the relationship of mafia organizations with politics in time and their social impact
- Evaluate the relationship with religion and gender
- Indicate, analyze and compare the range of instruments and strategies to fight against the mafia
- Organize 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, and 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*, 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., *Men of Dishonour: Inside the Sicilian Mafia*, Morrow and Co., 1993.

Arlacchi, P., *Mafia Business: The Mafia Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Verso, 1987.

Behan T., *Defiance, The story of the man who stood up to the Sicilian mafia*, Tauris & Co., 2008

Bolzoni A., *White shotgun: the Sicilian mafia in their own words*, Macmillan, 2013
Davis, J., *Mafia Dynasty*, Harper Collins, 1993.
Dickie J., *Cosa Nostra*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2004
Dickie J., *Mafia Republic: Italy's Criminal Curse. Cosa Nostra, 'Ndrangheta and Camorra from 1946 to the Present*, Sceptre, 2014
Dickie J., *Mafia Brotherhoods: I Camorra, mafia, 'ndrangheta: the rise of the Honoured Societies*, Sceptre, 2013
Duggan C., *Fascism and Mafia*, Yale University Press, 1989
Fentress J., *Rebels and mafiosi. Death in a Sicilian landscape*, Cornell University Press, 2000
Finckehauer J.O., *Mafia and Organized Crime*, One World Book, 2007
Follain J., *The last Godfathers*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2008
Gambetta, D., *The Sicilian Mafia*, Harvard University Press, 1993.
Glenny M., *McMafia*, Bodley Head, 2008
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
Varese F., *Mafias on the move: how organized crime conquers new territories*, Princeton Univ. Press, 2011.

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.bibliotecadelleoblade.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

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

Home 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 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 **Midterm** exam accounts for 20% of the final course grade. For exam time and date consult the course website. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

Format:

- 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 course grade.

- Format: topic, length, guidelines, and due date will be provided on course website.
- Material for research will be available in the FUA Library in Corso Tintori 21.
- The Paper is a group research project, and topics are to be communicated to the instructor by Lesson 4.
- Research is meant to discover information and explore ideas. The group work aims at stimulating creativity, the capacity to work well in teams and employing critical thinking skills. Furthermore, it aims at assessing multiple viewpoints on potentially challenging juridical, historical or ethical issues. Working with teammates gives you the opportunity to consider and weigh alternative perspectives and opinions that you might not have considered working on your own.
- Research papers will be discussed in class.

The **Final** exam accounts for 25% of the final course grade. For exam time and date consult the course website.

The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason. Format:

- 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.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to the course What is Mafia: from its origins to nowadays - characteristics and specificities; deconstructing the stereotypes
Objectives	Inform on the level, requirements, and main contents and practices of the course. Define specific elements characterizing mafia as compared to other criminal organizations
Readings/ Assignments	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 Mafia: 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: their internal structures and illegal traffics
Objectives	Illustrate the different internal structures and identify the specific forms of criminal traffic
Readings/ Assignments	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 roots of today's strongest organizations: 'Ndrangheta and Camorra; Old and new traffics

Objectives	Analyze the social and cultural environment of these two mafia organizations and their role in these global criminal markets
Readings/ Assignments	Roberto Saviano, "Cocaine" in <i>Zero Zero Zero, 2013</i> , "Land of fires", "Hollywood", in <i>Gomorra, 2002</i> ASSIGNMENT #1 - FOR NEXT LESSON

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Evolution of gender roles inside the mafia DEADLINE FOR COMPOSITION OF RESEARCH PAPER GROUPS
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 the position of the Church
Objectives	Analyze the role of religion and of the Church in the mafia culture
Readings/ Assignments	Archibishop Pappalardo, "The need for antimafia pastoral", in <i>Culture of Lawfulness - The role of religious experiences</i> , The Sicilian Renaissance Institute, 2002 C. Scordato, "What model of Church to face the Mafia", in <i>ib.</i> Mons. Di Cristina, "The Church moral condemnation of the Mafia and the Clergy's role in the Parish" Roberto Saviano, "Don Peppe Diana", in <i>Gomorra, cit.</i> ASSIGNMENT #2 - FOR NEXT LESSON

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The roots of the Mafia: from its origins to WWII, the connections with the Allied forces, the aftermath of war and the creation of a mafioso political class Review for Midterm Exam
Objectives	Explain the historical and political roots of mafia organizations; 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</i> , cit. 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	
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 DEADLINE FOR TOPICS OF RESEARCH PAPER
Objectives	Indicate and analyze the legal and judicial instruments to fight against the mafia
Readings/ Assignments	Law Enforcement in Italy and Europe against mafia and organized crime John Dickie, “The first mafia war and its consequences”, “Terra infidelium”, in <i>Cosa Nostra</i> ASSIGNMENT #3 - FOR NEXT LESSON

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Narrating the Mafia: Literature and media on mafia
Objectives	Analyze 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 - FOR NEXT LESSON

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Ethics in business: from silence to denounce
Objectives	Organize and present a research paper on a topic by choice, demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills. Analyze 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	Organize and present a research paper on a topic by choice, demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills. Analyze the role of education to citizenship against the mafia
Readings/ Assignments	Maurizio De Luca, “A way of taking side”, in <i>Culture of Lawfulness, The role of Mass Media</i> , The Sicilian Renaissance Institute, 2002 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 DEADLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPERS
Objectives	Organize and present a research paper on a topic by choice, demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills. Analyze the role of civil society against the mafia
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 Organized 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 analyzed; clarify doubts on the content of the exam
Readings/ Assignments	Leoluca Orlando, "From a culture of lawfulness to an economy of legality" Rita Borsellino, "In spite of everything. The popular Antimafia commitment in Sicily"

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM