Lecture Course

Santa Reparata International School of Art
Course Syllabus

Semester Course
Course Title: History of Italian Mafia
Course Number: HIST 297
Credit Hours: 3, Contact hours: 45

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will examine the history of the Italian Mafia, starting with the Unification of Italy up to the present. The approach will be both political-historical and sociological. A discussion of the major protagonists, in the flight against the Cosa Nostra such as Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino will be an integral part of this course. The course will end with a discussion of contemporary organized crime in Italy.

2. CONTENT INTRODUCTION
The course begins with an analysis of the roots of the Italian mafia that lay within the over reliance on codes of honor and on traditional family values as a resolution to all conflicts. Historically we begin in the Middle Ages with the control of agricultural estates by the mafia, the exploitation of peasants, and the consequent migration of Sicilians towards the United States at the end of the 19th century.
We then focus on the controversial relationship between the mafia and the fascist state, and the decline of organized crime under fascism. During the Second World War the Mafia resurfaced after American and Allied forces landed in Sicily and freed many of the Mafiosi that had been imprisoned by the regime. Beginning in the late 50s the mafia was centralized into one organization called Cosa Nostra that controlled the traffic of drugs from Sicily to the United States.

3. PREREQUISITES
As this course is an introduction to the history of Italian Mafia, there are no special requirements to attend it except for a sincere interest in Italian history and society.

4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
This course is intended to provide students – whether they are majors in History, Political Science or whether they have taken only an introductory course – with specific answers to the question "what is Mafia and in particular Italian Mafia?". It is intended to stimulate discussion and critical thinking about representations and idealizations of the concept of Mfia, outside of well spread stereotypes and wrong ideas about one of the most complex historical, social and political phenomenon.
Students will develop their awareness and understanding of the major historical and political issues that characterize Italy since the 1800's to present days.

5. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS
Students are required to take notes from class and will find assignments and reading on the SRISA website in the MYSRISA section. Only registered students can access this section. To obtain your login credentials please ask the professor.
Many other readings will be assigned during the semester in class.

**Other suggested books:**

**NOTE:**
1. Not all of these books are available at the school’s library. Handouts will be given by the instructor at the beginning of class when necessary.
2. Further readings will be required and indicated by the professor in class and individually according to the student’s interests.

**6. GRADING POLICY AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

- **Attendance** 20%
- **Class participation** 20%
- **Mid-term test** 20%
- **Final Paper** 20%
- **Final exam** 20%

Following **grading system** will be observed:

- **A** Excellent 4.0 (95% -100%)
- **A-** 3.7, (90% to 94%)
- **B+** 3.3 (87% to 89%)
- **B** Above Average 3.0 (83% to 86%)
- **B-** 2.7 (80% to 82%)
- **C+** 2.3 (77% to 79%)
- **C** Average 2.0 (73% to 76%)
- **C-** 1.7 (70% to 72%)
- **D** Below Average 1.0 (60% to 69%)
- **F** Failure 0.0 (59% and below)
- **W** Withdrawal 0.0

**7. EXAMS**

There is a Mid-term Test and a Final Exam for this course. No make-ups are allowed for the exams and the dates of the exams CANNOT be changed for any reason. If a student misses the Final exam, the final grade will be an “F”.

- **Mid-term Test (20% of final grade)** The exam will last one hour. It will consist of 10 specific essay questions about the assigned readings and the lectures.
- **Final Exam (20 % of final grade)** The exam will last one hour. It will consist of 10 specific essay questions about the assigned readings and the lectures.

If you need to consult with the instructor on any academic question, it is possible to do so by appointment – this should be set up the week before.
Guidelines for Final Paper (20% of final grade) The length of the paper should be a minimum of 8 pages and a maximum of 12. A full bibliography must be included at the end of the paper. Web sites consulted should also be cited.

All direct quotations from published sources should be acknowledged in your text immediately following the quotation. This is to avoid any inadvertent plagiarism. All papers should be handed personally to the instructor before the final exam review session. If you need to consult with the instructor on anything relating to the final papers (or indeed on any academic question) it is possible to do so by appointment – this should be set up the week before. In the week preceding exams – both mid-term and finals – ‘Office Hours’ will be held at a time and place to be announced.

8. ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR POLICY
Students may miss up to 2 classes with no penalty to their grade. Students who miss 3 class will have their grade lowered by one letter grade for each additional absence. For example, if you have an “A” in this class and you are absent 3 times you will receive a “B” in the course.
If you are absent more than 4 times you will receive an “F” on your transcript.

- Tardiness: After 10 minutes into class time, students are considered absent.
- Students who leave 10 minutes before class time ends will be considered absent.
- Excused absences require a doctor’s note or a written note from the Director.
- Arriving in class unprepared to work is considered an unexcused absence.
- The use of cellular phones is prohibited during class time.
- Students are expected to participate in class, act responsibly, and behave properly while on the school premises. Classrooms are to be left in order and clean. Students must take care of equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and/or loss.
- No eating or drinking in class.

9. COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK 1: Introduction
a. The name, the origin and the stereotype
b. Mafia as enterprise and Mafia as “Judicial System”

Readings:

WEEK 2: Protomafia
a. The Network and organization of early Mafia
b. Mafiosi and banditi
c. The Middle Class and the collective attitude

Readings:
- S. LUPO, The Revelation, from History of the Mafia
- Documents from the investigations of Leopoldo Franchetti and Sidney Sonnino

WEEK 3: Mafia and Politics
a. The origin of a successful “partnership”
b. Intermediaries
c. Mafia of the suburbs and rural Mafia: 1877-1898

Readings:
- Rapporto Sangiorgi, English translation
- G. BARONE, Egemonie urbane e potere locale (1882-1913), English translation
WEEK 4: Mafia and Italian culture
a. Inside and outside the organization
b. Negations: la Mafia non esiste
Readings:
• Rapporto Sangiorgi, English translation
• P. ARLACCHI, Mafia business. Mafia Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

WEEK 5: Mafia abroad. The case of USA
a. Palermo to New Orleans: Italy, Mafia and the hemorrhage of late 1800’s mass migration
b. The “foreign conspiracy” and the assassination of captain Hennessy
c. A multi-ethnic universe, una Mafia nuova
Readings:
• J.L. ALBINI, The American Mafia. Genesis of a Legend
• US Report of Immigration Commission, 1911

WEEK 6: Joe Petrosino and Vito Cascio Ferro
a. The Fasci Siciliani: 1892-93
b. The Subversive becomes man of order
c. A Conspiracy?
Readings:
• Excerpts from J.W. TUOHY, Joe Petrosino’s war on the Mafia

MARCH 2nd: MIDTERM EXAM

MARCH 3TH-12TH: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 7: WWI and the first “mutation”
a. Southern Italy and the post-war politics
b. The transformation of the Latifondo
c. The consequences of the universal (male) suffrage
Readings:
• G. MOLÈ, Investigation on the Sicilian Latifondi, 1929. English translation
• N. PRESTIANNI, Investigation of the small rural property, 1931. English translation

WEEK 8: Mafia and Fascism
a. The prefect Cesare Mori in Sicily
b. A harsh repression and some clarifications about the consequences
c. The 1930’s in Sicily
Readings:
• Excerpts from C. MORI, The last struggle with the Mafia, 1933.
• J. DICKIE, Socialism, Fascism, Mafia in Cosa Nostra. A history cit.
• S. LUPO, Fighting the Mafia at close quarters in History of the Mafia cit.

WEEK 9: Mafia after WWII
a. Before and after July 1943
b. The family Greco
c. Mafia in the 1950’s
Readings:
• D. GAMBITTA, The origin in The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection

WEEK 10: The first turning point: Mafia and the Italian economic miracle
a. A new country and a high price
b. The new laws against the Mafia and judge Terranova’s investigations: birth of Anti-mafia
c. Generation 1920’s
Readings:
• Excerpts from L. SCIASCIA, The day of the owl
• J. CHUBB, Patronage, power and poverty in Southern Italy

WEEK 11: The war. Mafia in the 1970’s
a. The Corleonesi at war: Totò Riina
b. A new strategy or a new Mafia?
c. Towards the 1990’s
Readings:
• S. LUPO, Metastasis in History of the Mafia cit.

WEEK 12: The 1990’s and the second turning point
a. 1992-1993: Mafia vs Italian State
b. The legacy of the Italian State and the legacy of Falcone and Borsellino
c. Towards the new millennium
Readings:
• S. LUPO, Terrorists and “pentiti” in History of the Mafia cit.
• Testimonianza of Tommaso Buscetta. English translation
• G. FALCONE-M. PADOVANI, Cose di Cosa Nostra. Excerpts in English

WEEK 13: Mafie
a. Camorra
b. ‘Ndrangheta
c. Mafia today
Readings:
• R. SAVIANO, Gomorrah. Excerpts
• J. DICKIE, Blood Brotherhoods: A History of Italy’s Three Mafias. Excerpts

THURSDAY APRIL 25TH, FINAL EXAM

10. DISCLAIMER
This Syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified if changes are made.