**Winter 2019 TermSOCIOLOGY 402: The Italian Mafia**

Instructor: Valentina RAPARELLI Time: Tuesday/Thursday *9.00 a.m.* Place: *St. Agostino*

Office Hours: After/before class or by appointment

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**Course Description and Objectives**:

“Mafia” is one of the terms which, like “pizza” and “spaghetti”, are identified with Italy and which contributed to the rise of many stereotypes. Nowadays it’s used to describe a number of criminal organizations around the world. In Italy it can be considered as a sort of container with different conjugations: Cosa Nostra, ‘Ndrangheta and Camorra are the names given to the major crime syndicates which originated in southern Italy and are now present almost all over the world. The aim of the course is to examine organized crime in Italy from historical, social and cultural perspectives, tracing its growth from the nineteenth century to the present. Students will learn the complexity of this phenomenon, beyond the mystified representations which are very common in popular culture. Furthermore, students will gain knowledge of how the mafia persisted for over a century from its origin to the recent times by transforming according to the evolution of contemporary society. The course analyzes sociological aspects of the mafia including language, message systems, the “code of silence,” the role of violence, structures of power and how it interacts with women. The course also pays attention to the following issues: Mafia involvement, both in legal and illegal markets, Mafia political implications and relations with others institutions – i.e. Catholic Church. Italy will be compared both to those countries where Italian mafia groups migrated at the beginning of the last century - such as the United States - and countries – Canada for instance- where infiltration by the Italian crime organizations is a more recent issue.

**Texts:**

Required:

F. Allum, ‘Understanding criminal mobility: the case of the Neapolitan Camorra’*, Journal of Modern Italian Politics*, 2014, pp. 1-17;

O. Bandiera, *Land Reform, the Market for Protection and the Origins of the Sicilian Mafia: Theory and Evidence*,London School of Economics and CEPR April 8, 2002, pp. 1-20;

F. Calderoni, *The Mafia index. A measure of the presence of the mafia across Italy,* 2011; pp. 1-21;

B. Cayli, ‘Italian civil society against the Mafia: from perceptions to expectation*’,* in *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*, n. 41, 2013, pp. 81-99;

O.Dimico, A. Isopi, O. Olsson, *Origins of the Sicilian Maﬁa: The Market for Lemons*, 2012, pp. 1-27;

A. Dino, *Women and Mafia,* in Narcomafie, 2004, pp. 1-4;

J. B. Jacobs, L. P. Gouldin, ‘Cosa Nostra: the final chapter?’*,* in *Crime and Justice*, vol. 25 1999, pp. 129-189;

E. Martellozzo, *Women with and against the Mafia,* Siak – Journal, 2005, pp. 48-56;

V. Martone*, ‘*Marketisation of Social Services and Mafia Infiltration: The Case of Migrant Reception Centres in Rome’*,* in *The European Review of Organized Crime*, 2017, pp. 9-28;

M. Massari, ‘The Sacra Corona Unita: Origins, Characteristic and Strategies’, *in* [*The ’Ndrangheta and Sacra Corona Unita: The History, Organization and Operations of Two Unknown Mafia Groups*](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321574894_The_'Ndrangheta_and_Sacra_Corona_Unita_The_History_Organization_and_Operations_of_Two_Unknown_Mafia_Groups)*,* 2014, pp. 101-116;

B. L. Nadeau, *Migrants are more profitable than drugs: how the mafia infiltrated the Italian asylum system,* “The Guardian”1 Feb. 2018;

P. Peluso, ‘The Roots of the Organized Criminal Underworld in Campania’, in *Sociology and Anthropology* 1(2): 118-134, 2013;

R. Saviano, *Gomorrah, Italy’s other Mafia,* pan Books, 2008;

A. Sergi, *‘Ndrangheta and Gangster Politics in Calabria. The local side of a global threat,* Centre of Criminology, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, pp.43-70;

A. Sergi, ‘What's in a Name? Shifting Identities of Traditional Organized Crime in Canada in the Transnational Fight against the Calabrian ‘Ndrangheta’*,* in *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Justice*, April 2018, pp. 1-29;

S. Schneider, ‘Violence, organized crime and illicit drug markets: a Canadian case study’*,* in *Sociologia*, problemas e practicas, 2013, pp. 125-141;

F. Varese*, ‘*The Camorra closely observed’, in *Global Crime*, 2009, pp. 262-266;

Recommended:

J. Dickie, *A History of the Sicilian Mafia. Cosa Nostra,* Hodder, 2007;

1. Robb, *Midnight in Sicily,* The Harvill Press London, 1996

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Mid-Term exam 30 %

Research Paper 25 %

Oral Presentation 10%

Final exam 35 %

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc?

Yes  No, not needed. No such projects approved.

**Community Service-Learning** component  Required  Optional  N/A

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

Exam registry – Students’ Union

http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/

See explanations below  Document distributed in class  Other *(please specify)*  NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes  No

**Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the “[Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939) section of the University Calendar.”

**Academic Integrity**

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at[www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

**Learning and working environment**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

• Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or

• If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the StudentOmbuds](http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110) is described in [UAPPOL](https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/Pages/default.aspx).

**Academic Honesty**:

**All students** should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](http://www.deanofstudents.ualberta.ca/en/AcademicIntegrity/UndergraduateHandbook.aspx) and [Information for Students](http://www.deanofstudents.ualberta.ca/en/AcademicIntegrity.aspx)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

**Students involved** in **language** courses and **translation** courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in language courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/~/media/osja/Documents/DisciplineChartAcademic.pdf) .

**Recording of Lectures:**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

**Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components**:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the Calendar regarding [Attendance](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939#Attendance) and [Examinations](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939#Examinations_(Exams)) sections of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Research Paper

The purpose of writing a research paper is to clearly communicate what you have learned through your research. Your research for this course will focus on a topic among those explored during the classes.

According to school policy you cannot present the same paper for two (or more) different courses.

The length of the paper should be between eight and twelve pages (2,500- 4,000 words), using double space, character size 12. Eight pages is the minimum for a paper to be accepted. Papers must be typed, written in clear and error-free prose and include documentation of sources of information in proper footnotes.

The paper is due on March 12.

**Policy for Late Assignments:**

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding circumstances that prevent them from submitting an assignment on time, may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. For any subsequent late assignments, the student will be penalized at 5% per day (including weekends), unless you requested an extension for a valid reason. Extensions will not be granted after the due date. After a period of 7 days (from the due date) assignments will not be accepted.

**Student Accessibility Services:**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/), contact their office immediately ( 1-80 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381).

**Grading**:Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (**“School in Cortona Undergraduate Grading Scale”**). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

**“School in Cortona Undergraduate Grading Scale here”**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Letter*** | ***%*** | ***Pts*** | ***Descriptor*** |
| A+ | 95-100 | 4.0 | Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations. |
| A | 90-94.9 | 4.0 | Excellent. Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. |
| A- | 86-89.9 | 3.7 | Very Good. Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of the subject matter. |
| B+ | 82-85.9 | 3.3 | Very good. |
| B | 75-81.9 | 3.0 | Good. Average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete. |
| B- | 70-74.9 | 2.7 | Good |
| C+ | 66-69.9 | 2.3 | Satisfactory. Basic understanding for the subject matter. |
| C | 61-65.9 | 2.0 | Satisfactory |
| C- | 58-60.9 | 1.7 | Poor. |
| D+ | 55-57.9 | 1.3 | Minimal Pass. Marginal performance, generally insufficient for subsequent courses in the subject matter. |
| D | 50-54.9 | 1.0 | Minimal Pass. |
| F | 0-49.9 | 0.0 | Failure. Failure to meet course requirements. |

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Class 1**

Tues – Jan, 15

**General overview of the course**

**Class 2**

Thurs – Jan, 17

**The Sicilian Mafia (1)**

Read: Bandiera (pp. 1-20); Dimico (pp. 1-47)

**Class 3**

Tues - Jan, 22

**The Sicilian Mafia (2)**

Read: Bandiera (1-20); Dimico (pp. 1-47)

**Class 4**

Thurs - Jan, 24

**The Neapolitan Camorra**

Read: Peluso (118-134); Saviano (pp. 38-59)

**Class 5**

Tues - Jan, 29

**‘Ndrangheta and Sacra Corona Unita**

Read: Massari (pp- 101-116); Sergi (pp. 43-70)

**Class 6**

Thurs - Jan, 31

**Movie: “One Hundred Steps”, by Marco Tullio Giordana, 2000;**

Film discussion

**Class 7**

Tues - Feb, 5

**Women and Mafia**

Read: Dino (pp- 1-4); Martellozzo (pp- 48-56)

**Class 8**

Thurs, Feb, 7

**Review**

**Class 9**

Tues- Feb, 12

**Midterm**

**Class 10**

Thurs – Feb, 14

**Mafia mobility and new mafias**

Read: Calderonii (pp. 1-21)

**Class 11**

Tues – Feb,19

***Eco-mafia*. Mafia and the Fashion industry**

Read: Saviano (282-301)

**Class 12**

Thurs – Feb, 21

**Movie: “Gomorra” by M. Martone, 2008;**

Film discussion

Friday – Feb, 22

**Field trip to Arezzo** (visit to the Anti-mafia Organization “Libera” and interview with an activist to learn the association goals and results)

**Class 13**

Tues – Feb, 26

**Immigration and Mafia**

Read: Martone (pp- 9-28); Nadeau

**Class 14**

Thurs – Mar, 28

**Documentary: “The green blood”, A. Segre, 2010;**

Discussion

**Class 15**

Tues – Mar, 5

**The Anti-mafia movement**

Read: Cayli (pp. 81-99)

**Class 16**

Thurs – Mar,7

**The Mafia infiltration in the States and Canada**

Read: Allum (pp. 1-19); Jacobs and Gouldin (129-189); Schneider (pp. 125-141)

**Class 17**

Tues – Mar,12

Oral presentation

**Class 18**

Thurs – Mar,14

Review

**Class 19**

Tues – Mar, 19

Final test