



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE

Course # TBA The Sicilian Mafia Spring 2020

Instructor: Natalia Piombino
Schedule: Thursday, 9:30am-12:15pm
Credits – 3 CSU semester units.

Location of Course – California State University, Florence, Via G. Leopardi, 12 - 50121 Florence, Italy

Office hours: Thursday, 12:20pm-1:20 pm or by appointment

Course Description

The course investigates the Sicilian Mafia from its genesis to present days by taking a multidisciplinary approach that will allow us to delve into the political, social and economic factors that made it possible. The major features of the mafia will be examined by analyzing a series of case studies that will allow us to contextualize the development of a major criminal organization. The course will tease out the conditions that made possible the long survival of the mafia as well as the role of ordinary citizens and the anti-mafia movement.

CSU GE category – CONSULT YOUR HOME CAMPUS ADVISOR REGARDING THIS

Required Book: John Dickie, *Cosa Nostra*, St. Martin's Griffin, London (last edition).
The book can be purchased at Paperback Exchange, Via delle Oche 4-red, Florence.
Additional readings and web resources will be given during the semester.

General Course Requirements

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class, on handouts **and via email**. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course. ***Make sure to check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.***

Class Site Visits

Visit to the Bottega of Libera (that sells goods produced by cooperatives that work in Calabria, on fields confiscated from the 'Ndrangheta) for meeting volunteers. Exact date TBA.

Learning Objectives - The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the development of the mafia as a system deeply rooted in the political, social, economic history of Sicily. Much emphasis will be placed on the relationship between the island with the Italian state as well as on the role of civil society.

Learning Outcomes - At the end of the semester students will be able to critically assess:

- a. the interplay of factors which made possible the genesis and the development of a criminal organization;
- b. the responsibilities of the elite in the lasting of a criminal organization;

- c. how a dictatorship (Fascism) dealt with crime;
- d. the revival of the mafia in a democratic context (post-war Italy);
- e. the changes the mafia underwent in the transition from a rural to an urban environment and then to a globalized arena;
- f. the role of ordinary citizens in the anti-mafia struggle.

Grades and Exams

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

(select and list the ones applicable to your course)

- Midterm 40%
- Class participation 20 %
- Final 40%

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 and below	F

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the paper, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester. Late work will be penalized half a letter grade per late day.

You must complete all work assigned in the course to pass the class.

A Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

B Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

C Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

D Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements

F Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements

VERY IMPORTANT: Failure to complete all work and exams assigned in the course could result in failure of the class.

Class Code of Conduct

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time.

Safety

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of all spaces, including the upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to access restrictions or disciplinary actions.

Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

Students with Disabilities

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

Attendance

“3 – Hour” Attendance Policy 2019-2020 (for classes that meet once a week for 3 hours)

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences could result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding **five** minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. **Missing the midterm or the final exam could result in failure of the course.**

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

Optional class policies:

Use of computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

Eating is **NOT** allowed in class.

Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on **silent mode** during class.

Important: Exams

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

Copyright and Privacy Laws

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

Changes- Important

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Class Calendar

Week 1 – Feb. 27

Introduction. The problem of the genesis of the mafia.
Main historical, economic and social features of the phenomenon.
Required readings: Dickie, Intro, 'Men of Honour' and chap. 1.
Optional reading: A.Blok, chap. V. 'Sicilian Society'.

Week 2 – March 5

The Mafia during the Liberal period.
Required readings: Dickie, chaps. 2 and 3.

Week 3 – March 12

NO CLASS TODAY DUE TO S. ITALY FIELD TRIP

Week 4 – March 19

Fascism and the mafia.
Required readings: Dickie, chap.4.

Week 5 – March 26

Cosa Nostra: the Mafia settles down in the US.
Required readings: Dickie, chap. 5.

Week 6 – April 2

The end of WWII and the revival of the Mafia. The Corleonesi.
Required readings, Dickie, chap. 6.

Week 7 – April 9

MID-TERM EXAM

SPRING BREAK – April 10 – 19. No classes this week.

Week 8 – April 23

The transition from the rural to the urban Mafia.
Review.
Required readings: Dickie, chap.7.

Week 9 – April 30

The first Mafia war and its consequences.
Required readings: Dickie, chap.8.

Week 10 – May 7

The 1980s and the second Mafia war. 1983-1992, the virtuous minority, Falcone and Borsellino.
Required readings: Dickie, chaps.9 and 10.

Week 11 – May 14

A new season of political connections: the mafia and Berlusconi.

Required readings: Dickie, chap. 11.

Week 12 – May 21

The mafia between 1992 and 2003. The 'Ndrangheta and the Camorra.

Required readings: Dickie, chap.12; R.Saviano, *Gomorra*, pp. 282-301.

Class PPT.

Week 13 FINAL EXAM. May 25 – 28: Exact date and time TBA.