1 - DESCRIPTION
One of a long list of Italian words adopted in many other languages, “mafia” is now applied to a variety of criminal organizations around the world. This course examines organized crime in Italy in historical, social and cultural perspective, tracing its growth from the nineteenth century to the present. The chief focus is on the Sicilian mafia as the original and primary form. Similar organizations in other Italian regions, as well as the mafia in the United States, an outgrowth of Sicilian mafia, are also considered. The course analyzes sociological aspects of the mafia including language, message systems, the “code of silence,” the role of violence, structures of power, and social relationships. Also examined are the economics of organized crime and its impact on Italian society and politics.

The objective of this course is to give students an accurate and in-depth understanding of the Italian mafia. Most Americans and non-Italians in general tend to look at the mafia through stereotypes, after forming their impressions of the mafia through popular movies. But few go beyond these cinematic images to learn the truth about this criminal phenomenon: the course aims to give the student a completely different picture of the mafia from that afforded by popular movies.

2 - OBJECTIVES, GOALS and OUTCOMES
The objective of this course is to give students an accurate and in-depth understanding of the Italian (Sicilian) mafia. Most foreigners tend to look at the mafia through stereotypes, after forming their impressions of the mafia through popular movies. But few go beyond these cinematic images to learn the truth about this criminal phenomenon: the course aims to give the student a completely different picture of the mafia.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- distinguish between the stereotypes and the reality of the mafia
- have a broad understanding of the mafia and its history till today
- be aware of the main problems connected to the mafia and its activity
- comment on media news about mafia
- show awareness of the role of the mafia in Italy and in the world
- show awareness of the main developments of anti-mafia action
- display a good understanding of the reasons for the survival of the mafia
- understand and comment on the relationship between the Italian State and organized crime
- understand the main social and economic features that make the mafia flourish in Italy (Southern Italy, but not only)

3 - PREREQUISITES
None.
The class is held in English, but as appropriate some terminology is in Italian and Italian dialects

4 - METHOD
Lessons will take the form of lectures, discussions and group and individual presentations. When appropriate, handouts and other materials will be distributed in class by the teacher and videos will be shown, in order to stimulate discussion on certain topics. Students are expected to do the readings in advance. At the same time, readings and discussions are intended to promote understanding and to foster insights into the processes of history and thinking critically.

During the first half of each class we will study the historical and sociological aspects of the mafia.
Discussion and presentations by students (in groups or individually) will take place in the second half of the class.

In order to do well in the course, regular attendance and completion of assignments are necessary. In particular, students should read the specified extracts from the textbooks and handouts given by the teacher as regular home assignments.

Note-taking is mandatory.

Lectures will be based on the WHY philosophy: the idea is to teach students to always ask themselves why things happen in a specific moment and in a specific way, or why things function according to specific patterns.

5- ASSESSMENT
Students will be assessed as follows:

A) CLASS PARTICIPATION
During the course students will be required to take part in class activity as follows:
- by participating in class discussions and presenting, when arranged, a brief oral summary and comment about the reading assignments;
- by reading articles – when required - dealing with issues not covered by the textbook. After reading, students will be expected to explain their ideas and discuss them with the rest of the class;
- by providing contributions to class discussions showing knowledge and understanding of the issues discussed;
- by asking perceptive and original questions;
- by recognizing the value of the opinions of others;
- by respecting the work of other students;
- by helping to foster a positive group environment and a responsible, professional and collaborative atmosphere.

Class participation will be worth 10% of the final grade.

B) ORAL PRESENTATION
There will be also ONE oral presentation (individual or group work) based on topics chosen by students dealing with the mafia (history, recent issues, case studies, specific aspects, etc.) Students shall report in class in a critical way.

The oral presentation will be worth 15% of the final grade.

The oral presentations should be educational and interesting for the other students, so feel free to develop the topic as you wish.

A simple reading from notes or directly from the article will affect negatively the grade.

For presentations, the use of power point is recommended, so that other students can take notes. A clear indication of bibliographical references is compulsory.

A copy of the presentation must be sent by e-mail to the teacher BEFORE the class and a PRINTED COPY of the presentation must be given to the teacher the day of the presentation.

Students are invited to prepare copies of their presentations or of an outline for all the rest of the class (estimated cost: 2-3 Euro) and distribute them during their presentation in order to facilitate the discussion.

Presentations will be graded as follows:

Audience interest/participation: 25%
Information accuracy: 25%
Information development: 25%
Presentation: 25%.

The schedule of the presentations will be decided in class with the students and is to be considered flexible.

C) QUESTION SHEET and class discussion – CLASS 9
There will be 1 question sheet during the semester about Sciascia's masterpiece “The Day of the Owl”
This activity aims to verify the improvement of the students' learning, the ability to comment and place in context the information acquired. Time available 30 min. The questionnaire will be 10% worth.
D) INDIVIDUAL ESSAY
Students are required to write an essay of 2000 words on topics chosen freely by the students and discussed with the teacher.
Deadline to choose the topic of the paper: CLASS 3.
The 2000 words do not include bibliography that is to be considered additional and compulsory. The essay shall have at least 5 bibliographical references. The use of Wikipedia as main source is not accepted and the content of the paper will be verified against Wikipedia entries. In case of plagiarism or re-tweet from Wikipedia the final paper will be graded F.
Class notes are not to be included and used as bibliography.

The paper is due on class 12.

Bibliography and sources
The list of the titles of the bibliography must be printed and attached to the paper.
Your research paper must be sourced. In other words, identify thoughts, information, ideas, data, and facts that are not your own. There are a number of ways you can do this. You can use various citation guidelines to source your paper. A common one is the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines which require the writer to list the last name of the author of a book, journal, or periodical and the page number of the citation at the end of sentence cited, or if you are attributing a thought, or idea that is not your own. Also, The American Psychological Association (APA) requirements are also acceptable. It is a footnote system that most computers will automatically do for you. The writer inputs the source (citation) information at the bottom of the page listing the last name of the author, first name, the title of the book, journal, or periodical, with the page number, and year of publication. Be aware that lack of proper documentation will result into plagiarism and therefore will strongly affect the grade of your paper.
To sum up:
- paper length 2000 words
- at least 4 bibliographical references
- no class notes in the bibliography
- ALWAYS clearly indicate where your info (general info or quotes) is from

The teacher does not go over draft papers

The paper is worth 15% of the final grade.

SUMMARY OF ESSAY DEADLINES:
CLASS 3 – topic of the essay
CLASS 12: deadline to turn in the essay

In case of absence, the essay can be submitted attached in doc format to an email to the teacher; any day of delay will result in 1 point of penalty in the grade of the paper.

Good essays should:
- be logically structured, with an introduction which sets out the ‘agenda’ of the essay and a conclusion which refers back to this agenda, and with a central section organized analytically.
- always focus on the issue or question.
- contain a lot of detail and examples
- provide accurate information and references to sources

Students will also be asked to take 2 exams (midterm and final exams) in written format.

Should issues of academic dishonesty arise (plagiarism and so on), the teacher will refer to the LDM written policy on such matters.

6. EXAMS
Both the midterm (25% of the final grade) and the final exam (25% of the final grade) consist of:
2 short essay questions, 1 long essay question, 1 multiple choice section (10 questions). The final exam is cumulative.
Books, copies or notes are not allowed.
For the exams pencils will not be allowed. Please, come in class with at least a pen to write the essays.
Grades for essay exams will be based on the following:
Remember that the dates of the exams can NOT be changed for any reason, so please organize your personal schedule accordingly.

7. EVALUATION AND GRADING SYSTEM
10% Class participation
15% Oral presentation
10% Test on Sciascia’s novel The Day of the Owl
15% individual paper
25% Midterm exam: written exam
25% Final exam: written exam

A = 100 - 93%, A- = 92 - 90%, B+ = 89 - 87%, B = 86 - 83%, B- = 82 - 80%,
C+ = 79 - 77%, C = 76 - 73%, C- = 72 - 70%, D = 69 - 60%, F = 59 - 0%

8- ATTENDANCE and BEHAVIOUR
Mandatory attendance is a primary requirement for a responsible learning experience at LdM. Please note that:
A. If the student misses THREE classes, the Final grade will be lowered by one full letter grade.
B. If more than THREE classes are missed, the final grade will be “F” and NO credits will be given for this course.

Punctuality is mandatory. Students must arrive in class on time:
a) any lateness, leaving class during the lesson without notice, not showing up on time after the break, or leaving earlier, will impact the participation grade and the Final Grade. In addition:
b) Three late arrivals or equivalent (10 to 20 minutes) result in one absence on the attendance count.
c) Missing more than 20 minutes will be considered as one full absence.

It is the responsibility of the student to catch up on any missed work and to keep track of his or her absences and cases of tardiness.
Missed in-class activities (including but not limited to quizzes, tests, etc.) can not be made up. Be informed in advance on how to submit assignments in case of absence.
Make-up classes are always mandatory since part of the course program.

Class conflicts: if on occasion a class creates a conflict with another class (due to a clashing make-up, class trip, etc), the student is required to inform both instructors IN ADVANCE, allowing the two instructors to share a written excuse for the class going to be missed. Even though an absence may be excused, students must be aware that there will be no possibility to make up any assessed in-class activities they have missed (including but not limited to quizzes, tests, etc.) and no refund can be given for pre-paid visit/fieldtrip fees. Keep this in mind in order to make a responsible decision about which class to attend.

Classes with visits are considered regular classes to all effects: absence or lateness rules will be applied as for lessons that meet in class, without excuses.
All students are requested to be 5 to 10 minutes early at the meeting point, so class can promptly enter at the specified entry time. If a student is late, the class cannot wait for him/her and the student will be responsible for paying for his/her entry.
Please be aware of any change of visit location/time/day; get to know the meeting point and any relevant details before the class.

Behavior / Academic Dishonesty:
Active and responsible participation is insisted on. Students are required to behave properly within the
school premises and during class. Proper behavior and **dress code** must be observed in class and during out-of-class sessions. For example, no food or drinking allowed in museums; in religious places, shoulders and knees must be covered.

Classrooms are to be left in **order and clean**. Students must take **care** of available equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and loss.

Drinking/eating during class is not allowed. **Electronic devices (cell phones, Blackberry, iPod, laptop computers, etc)** must be **switched off** during class, unless otherwise instructed.

Instructors who find a student’s behavior is inappropriate will seek to talk with him/her promptly; if the issue continues, the instructor is required to contact the pertinent LdM authority.

Should issues of academic dishonesty arise, the faculty member will adhere to the relevant LdM policy and report suspected instances to the LdM Dean of Students for disciplinary review. According to the LdM Rules of Conduct, “Violations include cheating on tests, plagiarism, inadequate citation, recycled work, unauthorized assistance, or similar actions not explicitly mentioned”. Assignments and projects are specific to individual courses; presenting the same work in two different courses (including previous courses) is considered recycling and is unacceptable.

Students with **learning disabilities** are required to contact their LdM Advisor or LdM Dean of Students.

### 9. READINGS and SOURCES

**Required readings:**

The course has two **mandatory** textbooks and one pdf file that will be distributed in class in electronic format:

- Leonardo Sciascia, *The Day of the Owl*, any edition available; price around 12.40 euro

The books must be purchased at the **Feltrinelli bookstore**, Via de' Cerretani, 30/32r - 50123 Firenze. Opening hours: Mon- Fri.:9.30am-8.00pm Sat.:10.00am-8.00pm Sun.:10.30am-13.30pm / 3.30pm-8.00pm.

You will receive a 15% discount – you need to present your LdM ID card.

The pdf file includes chapter 7 of **John Dickie’s Mafia Republic** (Sceptre, London, 2013, pp. 405-476), covering the most recent developments.

**Other suggested readings:**

**History of the Mafia:**


**Sociology of the Mafia:**

code: IT POL 41).


**Italian History and Culture:**


The following internet sites are among the best sources of information on contemporary developments:

- [http://www.interno.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/temi/vittime_mafia](http://www.interno.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/temi/vittime_mafia) - the Ministry of the Interior page devoted to mafia victims (in Italian)
- [http://www.interno.it/dip_ps/dia/](http://www.interno.it/dip_ps/dia/) the biannual reports to Parliament of the *Direzione Investigativa Antimafia* (DIA) (In Italian).
- [http://www.centroimpastato.it/](http://www.centroimpastato.it/) the website of the Centro Siciliano di Documentazione “Giuseppe Impastato” (in Italian with sections in English)

The proceedings of the ongoing parliamentary commission of inquiry into the mafia are available on the following sites:

- [http://www.camera.it/_bicamerali/antimafia/home.htm](http://www.camera.it/_bicamerali/antimafia/home.htm)

Please note that books listed above can be consulted at the LdM Institute Library. Please check the library (online OPAC catalogue) for new accessions and other useful reading material. NOTE: your personal copy of the mandatory text book must be purchased at the bookstore mentioned in "Required Readings". The Library does NOT SELL books.


### 10. ADDITIONAL COSTS

For the course students will spend approx 20 Euro:
- 15 Euro (approx.) for textbook (see previous point)
- 2-3 Euro for copies of the presentation (see point 5)

### 11 - VISITS and TRIPS

Not pertinent.

### 12 - MATERIALS

None, except basic stationery, and copies of presentation.

### 13A - CLASS SCHEDULE

The contents of classes may be changed during the course according to the class's progress

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**WEEK 1**
1) June 1  Introduction to the syllabus and to the course

--) June 2  National Holiday, no class – no make-up required.

2) June 3  The problem of origins. Men of honor. The genesis of the Mafia, 1860-1876.
Reading: textbook, Prologue + Introduction, chapter 1

3) June 4  The Mafia enters the Italian system, 1876-1890.
Reading: textbook, chapter 2
Deadline to choose the topic for the essay

WEEK 2

4) June 8  The Mafia as an instrument of local government.
Reading: textbook, chapter 3

5) June 9  1893-1943: Socialism, Fascism, Mafia.
Reading: textbook, chapter 4

6) June 10 Mafia in America
Reading: textbook, chapter 5

7) June 11 1943-1950: War and rebirth. Salvatore Giuliano
Reading: textbook, chapter 6
Review for the exam

WEEK 3

8) June 15 MID-TERM EXAM

9) June 16  The Mafia from the countryside to the city + TEST
Reading: textbook, chapter 7
**Reading: Sciascia’s The Day of the Owl**
Question sheet on Leonardo Sciascia’s The Day of the Owl
Time available: 30 minutes.

Reading: textbook, chapters 8-9

Reading: textbook, chapter 10

12) June 19  Mandatory FRIDAY Makeup class covering Wed. June 24th
**Movie:** I Cento Passi, by Marco Tullio Giordana (2000).
The role of women in Cosa Nostra.
Deadline to hand in the essay.

WEEK 4

Reading: textbook, chapters 11-12

14) June 23  Mafia in the so-called “Second Republic”
Reading: pdf file (Dickie’s Mafia Republic, ch. 7)
Review

--) June 24  Local Holiday, make-up on Friday 19 – same time, same classroom
13B - ALTERNATIVE LESSON
Should the instructor be indisposed or otherwise unable to attend, a substitute teacher will conduct a pre-prepared alternative lesson at the regular class time. This could take the form of one or more of the following:
- a discussion and question page;
- a guided discussion;
- a written in-class assignment;
- a film about the mafia.