

The Italian Mafia in History and Film

HIST 241

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Office: 120 Bowden Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 10:15-12:15
Classroom: 116 Bowden Hall
Class Time: Monday/Wednesday 2:30-3:45
Class Webpage: www.rhiannonevangelista.com/mafia
Fall 2013

Course Overview

Hollywood's romanticized portrayal has greatly influenced American popular understanding of the Sicilian mafia. But what is the real mafia like? Italians have used the medium of film to address this very question, raising awareness about the harsh reality of life in the mafia and the ways in which the "octopus" reaches into every aspect of Italian politics and society. This course will examine representations of the mob in Italian film while at the same time tracing the history of organized crime in Italy, focusing particularly on the Sicilian mafia. Students will be encouraged to think critically about representations of Sicily and Sicilians, the fight against the mafia, the exportation of the mob to the United States, and the use of both fiction and non-fiction narrative in political and social struggle.

Required Texts

Besides readings available through Reserves Direct, the following books are required:

1. Dickie, John. *Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia*.

ISBN: 978-1403970428

2. Sciascia, Leonardo. *The Day of the Owl*.

ISBN: 978-1590170618

Note: All films viewed in this class will be on reserve at the Music & Media, Reserves Library Service Desk, Woodruff Library, 4th Floor.

Course Evaluation

Assignment/ Exam	Details	% of Total Grade
Critical Film Reviews	5 critical film reviews of 3-5 pages of length.	35%

Sciascia Paper	A comparison of Sciascia's novel <i>The Day of the Owl</i> with its film adaptation by Damiano Damiani. 5 pages.	10%
Research Paper	On topic of student's choice. 5-8 pages.	20%
Final Exam		20%
Class Participation	Attendance, participation in class discussions, reading responses	15%

Assignments

All assignments MUST be handed in at the time indicated by the instructor. For each twenty-four hour period after that point, a full letter grade will be deducted from the assignment.

In addition, students must read the assigned discussion readings for each class (look under "Class Schedule" to find the readings) and post a brief **READING RESPONSE** (about half a page in length) on our Blackboard site (classes.emory.edu). In preparing reading responses students should not simply give their opinion of the reading but should critically discuss one or more aspects of the reading that they find particularly significant and/or relevant to that day's discussion. The reading responses must be posted to the Blackboard site by 1PM on the day the reading response is due. The instructor **WILL NOT** read any reading responses posted after that time.

Each week the instructor will feature one particularly insightful reading response on the class webpage, if the author of said reading response gives her/his consent.

Attendance and Participation

This is a discussion-based class. Therefore attendance and active participation are both expected and required. Come to class prepared with questions to guide discussion.

The class will be divided into small groups, called "teams", which will discuss the day's readings before reporting to the wider class. Each class period, the team with the most insightful comments will receive a point. The members of the team with the most points at the end of the semester will have one percentage point added to their final grade.

Since attendance is so critical to your success in this course, for every absence you incur over four will result in one-third of a letter grade deduction on your final course grade. All absences will be counted---there are no excused absences!

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to uphold the Emory HONOR CODE. Please be especially mindful that you provide the proper citation for any use of a direct quote, paraphrase or idea from someone else. **PLAGIARISM** will not be tolerated. Note that this also applies to reading responses. **DO NOT** copy a friend's reading response. Doing so is an act of plagiarism.

Classroom Etiquette

The following are the class etiquette regulations: cell phones must be turned OFF before class begins, no texting, no IMing, no doing homework, no eating in class. In addition, showing up more than five minutes late for class will result in a half absence.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, because this is a discussion-based class, there will be no laptop use during class. Please keep laptops closed. Bring a pen and paper to class for taking notes.

Make-up Policy

There will be no make-up exams without prior approval. The format of make-ups is at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Schedule

September 4, 2013

Dickie, *Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia*, pp. 7-34.

September 9, 2013

Dickie, pp. 35-85.

Viewing: *Il Gattopardo (The Leopard)* Director: Luchino Visconti. Based on the novel by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (6:00pm, White Hall 103).

September 11, 2013

No class

September 16, 2013

Discussion: *Il Gattopardo (The Leopard)*.

****Il Gattopardo (The Leopard)* review due.

September 18, 2013

Dickie, pp. 87-91, 112-159.

September 23, 2013

Dickie, pp. 161-189.

Viewing: *Lucky Luciano*. Director: Francesco Rosi (6:00pm, White Hall 103).

September 25, 2013

No class

September 30, 2013

Discussion: *Lucky Luciano*.

****Lucky Luciano* review due.

October 2, 2013

Dickie, pp. 191-209, 217-229

October 7, 2013

Dickie, pp. 230-257.

Viewing: *Il Giorno della civetta (The Day of the Owl)*. Director: Damiano Damiani.

Based on a novel by Leonardo Sciascia (6:00pm, White Hall 103).

***Sciascia's *Il Giorno della civetta (The Day of the Owl)* must be read by this date.

October 9, 2013

No class

***Research paper topic must be approved by this date.

October 16, 2013

Discussion: *Il Giorno della civetta (The Day of the Owl)*.

***Sciascia paper due.

October 21, 2013

Dickie, pp. 259-291.

Viewing: *I Cento passi (One Hundred Steps)*. Director: Marco Tullio Giordana (6:00pm, White Hall 103).

October 23, 2013

No class

October 28, 2013

Discussion: *I Cento passi (One Hundred Steps)*.

****I Cento passi (One Hundred Steps)* review due.

October 30, 2013

Dickie, pp. 293-310.

November 4, 2013

Dickie, pp. 311-338.

Viewing: *Il Commissario Montalbano (Detective Montalbano)*. Director: Alberto Sironi.

Based on novels by Andrea Camilleri (6:00pm, White Hall 103).

November 6, 2013

No class

November 11, 2013

Discussion: *Il Commissario Montalbano (Detective Montalbano)*.

****Il Commissario Montalbano (Detective Montalbano)* review due.

November 13, 2013

Longrigg, Clare, *Mafia Women*, pp. x-xxii.

Dickie, John, *Blood Brotherhoods*, pp. 1, 9-27.

November 18, 2013

Allum, Felia. "Becoming a Camorrista: Criminal Culture and Life Choices in Naples."
Journal of Modern Italian Studies 6, no. 3 (October 2001): 324–347.

Mamberto, Carola, "Italy: Taking on the Mafia. Interview with Roberto Saviano." PBS
Frontline World.

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/italy801/interview/saviano.html>

Viewing: *Gomorrah*. Director: Matteo Garrone. Based on a non-fiction novel by
Roberto Saviano (6:00pm, White Hall 103).

November 20, 2013

No class

November 25, 2013

Discussion: *Gomorrah*.

****Gomorrah* review due.

November 27, 2013

No class.

December 2, 2013

Jamieson, Alison, "The Grassroots Antimafia," in *The Antimafia: Italy's Fight against
Organized Crime*, pp. 127-135, 144-158.

"Slideshow: Painting the History of the Mafia," PBS Frontline World.

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/italy801/slideshow/slideshow.html>

"Salvatore Piparo – Reviving a Lost Art," PBS Frontline World.

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/italy801/interview/piparo.html>

December 4, 2013

***Research paper due.

Viewing: Mamberto, Carola, "Italy: Taking on the Mafia."

No Readings

December 9, 2013

No Readings

This syllabus is subject to change.

Office for Undergraduate Education – Information for Syllabus – Fall 2013

- The Office for Undergraduate Education (OUE) central office is located in White Hall 300
- Please visit or call 404.727.6069 with questions about academic affairs, concerns or policies.
- All Emory College of Arts and Sciences policies may be found in the College Catalog:
<http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/catalog/index.html>
- For a full list of Religious Holidays can be found here:
<http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/pdf/Religious%20Holidays%202013-14.pdf>

Important Fall 2013 Dates

- August 28: First day of classes
- September 4: Add/Drop/Swap ends 11:59pm
- September 11: Last day to change S/U or Grading option
- October 14-15: Fall Break
- October 18: Last day for withdrawal without penalty (all students)
- November 15: Last day for withdrawal without penalty (1st year, Transfer, Oxford ONLY)
- November 28-29: Thanksgiving Holiday Break
- December 10: Last day of classes
- December 11: Reading Day(s)
- December 12-18: Final Exam Period

Academic Advising and Class Deans

If you have any academic concerns or questions about Emory College of Arts and Sciences policies, you should first meet with an OUE academic adviser. If an academic adviser is unavailable to meet with you, you may meet with an OUE dean during open hours.

- OUE Academic Adviser appointments: Visit White Hall 300 or call 404.727.6069
- Deans' Open Hours:
<http://college.emory.edu/home/administration/office/undergraduate/hours.html>

Academic Support

There are a range of resources available to Emory undergraduates designed to enrich each student's educational experience.

- Visit <http://college.emory.edu/advising> for a list of support programs and appointment directions

Access and Disability Resources

Students with medical/health conditions that might impact academic success should visit Access, Disability Services and Resources (ADSR formerly the Office of Disability Services, ODS) to determine eligibility for appropriate accommodations. Students who receive accommodations must present the Accommodation Letter from ADSR to your professor at the beginning of the semester, or when the letter is received.

Attendance Policies (Absences and Absences from Examinations)

- Absences: Although students incur no administrative penalties for a reasonable number of absences from class or laboratory, they should understand that they are responsible for the academic consequences of absence and that instructors may set specific policies about absence for individual courses.
- Absences from Examinations: A student who fails to take any required midterm or final examination at the scheduled time may not make up the examination without written permission from a dean in the Office for Undergraduate Education. Permission will be granted only for illness or other compelling reasons, such as participation in scheduled events off-campus as an official representative of the University. A student who takes any part of a final examination ordinarily will not be allowed to defer or retake that final. Deferred examinations must be taken during the student's next semester of residence by the last date for deferred examinations in the academic calendar or within twelve months if the student does not re-enroll in the college. Failure to take a deferred examination by the appropriate deadline will result automatically in the grade IF or IU.

Honor Code

Upon every individual who is a part of Emory University falls the responsibility for maintaining in the life of Emory a standard of unimpeachable honor in all academic work. The Honor Code of Emory College is based on the fundamental assumption that every loyal person of the University not only will conduct his or her own life according to the dictates of the highest honor, but will also refuse to tolerate in others action which would sully the good name of the institution. Academic misconduct is an offense generally defined as any action or inaction which is offensive to the integrity and honesty of the members of the academic community.

- The Honor Code, a list of offenses and the Honor Council process may be found;
http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/policy/honor_code.html