

HIST 4490

The Italian Mafia in History and Film

Semester: Spring 2015

Location: Social Sciences Building 3007

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00pm-3:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Rhiannon Evangelista

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Phone: 470-578-4762

Office: Social Sciences Building Room 4083

Office Hours Wednesdays 9:30am-10:45am, 12:30pm-1:45pm and by appointment

Course Description

This course examines representations of the mob in primarily Italian film while at the same time tracing the history of organized crime in Italy. Through readings, class discussions, film screenings, a review, and a research project, students explore the ways in which the arts, humanities, and social sciences can impact problems facing contemporary society.

Course Objectives

By the end of this class students will be able to

1. Critically analyze representations of the mafia in film.
2. Explain not only the key developments in the history of the mafia in Italy but also the main issues facing the fight against the mob today.
3. Apply their own talents, skills, and interests to the study of and fight against organized crime by completing a research project.
4. Articulate the ways in which the humanities and social sciences can contribute to political and social activism.

Required Texts

1. Dickie, John. *Blood Brotherhoods: A History of Italy's Three Mafias*.

ISBN: 978-1610394277

Films Viewed in This Class

Gomorra (Matteo Garrone)
The Godfather (Francis Ford Coppola)
Hands over the City (Francesco Rosi)
The Hundred Steps (Marco Tullio Giordana)
The Sicilian Girl (Marco Amenta)
Detective Montalbano: A Voice in the Night (Alberto Sironi)

Gomorra, *Hands over the City*, and *The Hundred Steps* are housed at the Foreign Languages Resource Collection (Pilcher 134). *The Godfather*, *The Sicilian Girl*, and *Detective Montalbano: A Voice in the Night* are on reserve at the main desk of Sturgis Library.

Course Evaluation

Assignment/ Exam	Details	% of Total Grade
Critical Film Review	A comparison between representations of the mafia in <i>Gomorra</i> and <i>The Godfather</i> . 3-4 pages. Due: 9 February 2015.	10%
Research project outline	Introduction to project topic, proposed thesis, list of sources. Due: 23 February 2015.	5%
Research project draft/class presentation	Due: 23 March 2015.	10%
Research project Final	On topic of student's choice. 10-12 pages. Can be a mixed-media project depending on student's expertise. Due: 29 April 2015.	20%
Final Exam	6 May 2015, 1:00pm	20%
Participation	Participation in class discussions.	10%
Attendance		10%
Reading Responses	Reading responses posted to D2L for each class period.	15%

All writing 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. Each assignment must have a cover page with the student's name, professor's name, title of assignment, class name, and date. All assignments must be submitted electronically (via D2L) AND in the form of a hard copy (with staple!) in class.

Students must read the assigned discussion readings for each class or watch the assigned film (look under “Class Schedule” to find the readings) and post a READING RESPONSE on D2L. 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 D2L by 1:00pm on the day the reading response is due. The instructor WILL NOT accept any reading responses posted after that time.

Every week or two 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 Policy:

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

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. Bring the day’s assigned reading to class!

Since attendance is so critical to your success in this course, for every absence you incur over four, one percentage point will be deducted from your attendance grade. All absences will be counted---there are no excused absences! Arriving more than five minutes late or leaving class early will result in a half absence.

Electronic Devices Policy:

Cell phones must be turned OFF before class begins. If a student’s phone rings or a student texts in class, he or she must leave for the remainder of the class period.

Because this is a discussion-based class, there will be NO LAPTOP use during class. Instead, bring a pen and paper to class for taking notes. A Canadian study shows that laptop use can lower grades by 11-17%:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/back-to-school/laptops-in-class-lowers-students-grades-canadian-study/article13759430/>

Grading:

Grading Scale

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A – 90%-100%

B – 80%-89%

C – 70%-79%

D – 60%-69%

F – 59% or less

I – Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair's office.

Academic Honesty:

The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation **AND** will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link:

<https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures>

[Any plagiarism or cheating will result in an automatic FAILURE of the course.](#)

[Copying another student's reading response is PLAGIARISM and will be punished accordingly.](#)

[What counts as plagiarism? Find out more at these websites or make an appointment to speak with the instructor about it:](#)

<http://plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

ADA Compliance:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 470-578-6443.

Professional Courtesy Statement:

Professionalism and courtesy are expected and encouraged in this class. In our class discussions, be respectful of the opinions of others, responding to their comments with politeness and leaving room for quieter students to participate.

Do not conduct any activity unrelated to class during class time (i.e. doing homework, sleeping). EATING is not allowed in class. Drinking soda/water is permissible. Any disruptive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

In email correspondence with the instructor, use the language of formal letter writing. For example, begin your email "Dear Dr. Evangelista," and end with a phrase such as "sincerely" or "best regards". Avoid contractions like "can't" or "it's." Only use your Kennesaw email for class-related correspondence. DO NOT EMAIL THE INSTRUCTOR THROUGH D2L!

Class Schedule

Week 1

7 January 2015
Introduction to the class.

Week 2

12 January 2015
Dickie, pp. xxv-xlv.

14 January 2015
Dickie, pp. 3-20, 32-46.

Week 3

21 January 2015
Dickie, pp. 189-201, 212-220, 633-636.
Viewing: *Gomorra* Director: Matteo Garrone.

Week 4

26 January 2015
Mamberto, Carola, "Italy: Taking on the Mafia. Interview with Roberto Saviano" *PBS Frontline World*, 27 January 2009.
<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/italy801/interview/saviano.html>
Politi, James, "Mafia bosses acquitted of threatening best-selling authors," *Financial Times*, 10 November 2014.
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/9c182bce-6907-11e4-b389-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3POCfaUol>
Discussion: *Gomorra*.

28 January 2015
Dickie, pp. 49-77, 89-90.
Viewing: *The Godfather*. Director: Francis Ford Coppola.

Week 5

2 February 2015
Dickie, pp. 117-141, 93-104.

4 February 2015
Dickie, pp. 378-381.
Discussion: *The Godfather*.

Week 6

9 February 2015
***Critical Film Review due.
Library presentation.

11 February 2015
Dickie, pp. 270-284, 287-290, 310-324.

Week 7

16 February 2015
Dickie, pp. 242-254, 346-355, 373-377. Thematic class on women and the mafia.
The Japan Times, "Women turn against notorious Italian Mafia."
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/03/05/world/crime-legal-world/women-turn-against-notorious-italian-mafia/#.VNzLsykcGKo>

18 February 2015
Dickie, pp. 359-372, 378-392.
Viewing: *Hands Over the City*. Director: Francesco Rosi.

Week 8

23 February 2015
Dickie, pp. 393-408, 424-433.
***Research Project Outline due.

25 February 2015
Discussion: *Hands Over the City*.

Week 9

2 March 2015
Dickie, pp. 409-423, 434-449.

3 March 2015
Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty.

4 March 2015, 2013
Dickie, pp. 450-478.
Viewing: *One Hundred Steps*. Director: Marco Tullio Giordana.

Week 10

9 March 2015
Dickie, pp. 450-506.

11 March 2015
Discussion: *One Hundred Steps*.

Week 11

16 March 2015
Dickie, pp. 507-518, 525-541.

18 March 2015
Dickie, pp. 542-559.
Viewing: *Sicilian Girl*. Director: Marco Amenta.

Week 12

23 March 2015
Dickie, pp. 560-579.

25 March 2015
Discussion: *Sicilian Girl*.
Wade, Diana. "Fight the Mafia Through the Cinema: An Interview with Marco Amenta."
Cineaste, Winter 2010. (Access through D2L: Content > Resources > "Wade, Amenta
Interview")

Week 13

30 March 2015
***Research Project Draft due.
Class presentations.

1 April 2015
Class presentations.

Week 14

13 April 2015
Dickie, pp. 580-616.

15 April 2015
Dickie, pp. 580-616.
Viewing: *Il Commissario Montalbano (Detective Montalbano)*. Director: Alberto Sironi.
Based on novels by Andrea Camilleri.

Week 15

20 April 2015

Dickie, pp. 617-651.

22 April 2015

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

Week 16

27 April 2015

Dickie, pp. 652-660.

Philip Jacobson, "Addiopizzo: The Grassroots Campaign Making Life Hell for the Sicilian Mafia," *Newsweek*, 17 September 2014.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2014/09/26/addiopizzo-grassroots-campaign-making-life-hell-sicilian-mafia-271064.html>

The Japan Times, "Women turn against notorious Italian Mafia," 5 March 2014. Posted to D2L under Content>Articles>Women turn against notorious Italian Mafia.

Rick Noack, "For Rome's mafia, more refugees means more money," *The Washington Post*, 5 December 2014.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2014/12/04/for-romes-mafia-more-refugees-means-more-money/>

29 April 2015

***Final Research Project due.

Exam Review

No Readings

Final Exam: 6 May 2015, 1:00pm

This syllabus is subject to change.