

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
Italian Studies Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: The Mafia in Italian Society, Literature and Film
Course Number: IS 301
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: ENG 102

Course description

This course aims to explore representations of the Italian Mafia in literature and cinema, with reference also to the Italian-American context. Students will be introduced to the history of the mafia, starting from its beginnings in Sicily, and follow its historical and geographical evolution within, and also outside, Italy. The course will make reference to Italian literary texts as well as Italian and Italian-American cinematic representations of the phenomenon.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- Dickie, John. *Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004
ISBN: tba
- Renga, Dana. *Mafia Movies: A Reader*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2011
ISBN: tba

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of 19th- 21st century Italian and Italian-American culture and history relating to the development of the mafia
2. critically examine literary and cinematic texts
3. evaluate the role of literature and film in forming the myth of the mafia or condemning it
4. produce oral and written reports on literary and cultural topics
5. search and use electronic and non-electronic library resources

Course Learning Activities

- Out of class readings: For each class, students will read the scheduled assigned readings.
- In class discussions: Students will read and analyze primary and secondary texts; they will become familiar with analytic methodology and critical terms; they will participate in discussions, sustain their views and ideas by using new and specialized lexicon.

- Oral presentations: Students will choose a topic relating to ones listed in the scheduled syllabus. They will prepare and present to the class, using elements of critical terminology already learned and critical sources.
- Written assignments: Students will complete a research paper on the topic of their choice relating to authors/texts studied.

Assessment tools

Class participation	10%
Oral presentation	15%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

Sample Syllabus

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course Introduction - Beginnings: The birth of the mafia and the birth of the Italian State - Screening: The Leopard (Luchino Visconti, 1963) - Reading: The Leopard (Giuseppe Tomasi de Lampedusa, 1958)
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banditry and Salvatore Giuliano - Screening: Salvatore Giuliano (Francesco Rosi, 1961) - Reading: Dickie, Renga
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Readings and re-readings of the mafia from Pirandello to the Taviani brothers - Screening: Tu ridi (Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, 1998) - Reading: La cattura (Luigi Pirandello)
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of the Mafia: 1960's - Screening: The Day of the Owl (Damiano Damiani, 1968) - Reading: The Day of the Owl (Leonardo Sciascia, 1961)
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The antimafia struggle - Screening: The One Hundred Steps (Marco Tullio Giordana, 2000) - Reading: Dickie, Renga
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women and the mafia - Screening: Io non ho paura (Gabriele Salvatores, 2003) - Reading: Dickie, Renga
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review - Midterm Exam
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Neapolitan Camorra - Screening: Gomorra (Matteo Garrone, 2008) - Reading: Gomorra (Roberto Saviano, 2006)
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Italian-American Mafia – its origins - Screening: The Black Hand (Wallace McCutcheon, 1906) - Reading: Renga
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Italian-American Mafia – the paternal mafioso - Screening: The Godfather (Francis Ford Coppola, 1972) - Reading: Renga
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Italian-American Mafia – mafia hierarchy - Screening: Goodfellas (Martin Scorsese, 1990) - Reading: Renga - Research paper due
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral presentations
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral presentations - Review and Course Conclusion
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FINAL EXAM

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		