<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class code</th>
<th>SOC-UA 9506-001</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor Details</td>
<td>Name: Salvatore Sberna  &lt;br&gt; NYU Home Email Address: <a href="mailto:ss7176@nyu.edu">ss7176@nyu.edu</a>  &lt;br&gt; Office Hours: By appointment only, Wednesdays, 6pm-7pm  &lt;br&gt; Villa Ulivi Office Location: Borgo de' Greci  &lt;br&gt; Villa Ulivi Office Extension: 055 5007 313  &lt;br&gt; For fieldtrips refer to the email with trip instructions and trip assistant’s cell phone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Details</td>
<td>Semester: Spring 2013  &lt;br&gt; Full Title of Course: The Politics Of Organized Crime. Italian Mafias In Comparative Perspective  &lt;br&gt; Meeting Days and Times: W 3:00 PM-5:45 PM  &lt;br&gt; Classroom Location: Firenze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Description</td>
<td>What most people know about Italian criminal organizations comes from stereotypical representations in popular culture – films and literature. The analysis of real-world data, such as investigations, proceedings and crime statistics, dismisses many of the accepted myths about Italian mafias over the last decades. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the definitions of this complex phenomenon by demystifying criminal underworld. This course will examine the organization of mafia groups in Italy, their codes and symbols, their activities both in legal and illegal markets, and their relationship to politics and other social institutions. The Italian case will be compared with those countries where Italian mafia groups migrated (such as the United States) and other nations where similar groups operate. Comparisons will enable students to disentangle different types of organized crime and to discover patterns and mechanisms of emergence and persistence across countries. The course will include also a review of the policies designed to control organized crime and of the grassroots initiatives to reduce the risk and combat mafia infiltration into local economy and society.</td>
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<td>Desired Outcomes</td>
<td>On completion of this course, students should:  &lt;br&gt; - Have mastered a basic understanding of organized crime, its origins, growth and persistence;  &lt;br&gt; - Have improved their understanding of how to research questions on crime, and their ability to compare criminal organizations across countries;  &lt;br&gt; - Have improved their ability to think critically about the impact of mafia groups to democracy, society and development;  &lt;br&gt; - Have gained experience with common legal frameworks designed to prevent and control organized crime.</td>
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<td>Assessment Components</td>
<td>Attendance and classroom discussion of reading materials: 20%  &lt;br&gt; Student assignments: 10%  &lt;br&gt; Multiple-choice in-class tests: 30% (15% each)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Midterm exam: 20% (two 1,000-words take-home essays)  
Final exam: 20% (2,000-words take-home essay)  

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

The Course is developed through lectures, PPT presentations and in-class discussions, and a Site visit. Therefore it is of basic importance that only students who plan to be actively involved in class-participation should attend. Every week students are expected to report and monitor news related to organized crime in Italy, US or in other countries by using newspapers, media, online news. They will submit a paper about one or more issues reported; it requires students to integrate such observations with the readings and concepts discussed in class.

The first part of each class will consist of an organized crime news report and a lecture. The second part of each class will consist of a group discussion of the readings for that day’s class or group simulation, guided by the instructor and based on a discussion outline that will be emailed to all students by noon of the previous Friday. Students can add questions and case studies to the class outline by emailing them to the instructor by noon of the Tuesday before class. Proponent students will receive a bonus for each suggested question or case studies that will be included in the final outline. Discussion leaders will sign up with the instructor during the first three weeks of the Semester. The discussion leaders are expected to provide (by Tuesday before class) the instructor with a brief analysis of the arguments suggested in the outline. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the topics included in the discussion outline based on the readings assigned for the class. The instructor will coordinate the discussion, provide in-depth analysis of some issues, and present illustrative materials and empirical data.

(This format will be adopted from Session 3 onwards.)

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student’s work demonstrates an understanding of the subject that goes beyond assigned course readings. The student writes essays/exam questions that are an original synthesis of source materials, demonstrating the ability to evaluate source material critically. Written arguments are clear, well-organized and well-presented; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.

Grade B: The student’s work shows a clear understanding of assigned readings and materials covered in class. The student writes clear, well-organized and well-presented essays/exam questions; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.

Grade C: The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. However, written and/or oral work is deficient in one or more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student’s work is generally in need of improvement.
**Grade D:** The student’s work shows occasional understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work is deficient in one of more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student does not participate in class discussion and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

**Grade F:** The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

**Grade Conversion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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</tbody>
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**Grading Policy**

Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is expected and required of all students. Any absences will negatively impact upon your course grade.

Absences:

In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student.

Absence Due to Illness

- If you are sick, please see a doctor (contact the OSL for information).
- Only a medical certificate from a local medical professional will be accepted to justify an absence due to illness.
- Within 24 hours of your return to class you must bring this note to the Office of Academic Support, located on the ground floor of Villa Ulivi. We will review the medical certificate and we will notify your faculty via email about your justified absence due to illness.
- Absences for short term illness without a medical certificate are not justified and count as unjustified absences. We will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness. We will not notify your faculty about these absences.
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences.

Due to Religious Observance

- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.
- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support.
| Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose  
**Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity**  
- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by NYU Florence or La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.  
- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose  |
|---|
| **Late Submission of Work**  
- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.  
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date  
- To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.  |
| **Plagiarism Policy**  
PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:  
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.  
In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, The faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school. Please consult the “Academic Guidelines for Success” distributed on your USB key at Check-in and on the NYU Florence Global Wiki.  
For a detailed description of some possible forms of plagiarism and cheating please consult the Community Compact that you signed at Orientation, a copy of which is on the above mentioned Wiki and USB key.  |
| **Required Text(s)**  
| **Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library or available on line)**  
### Internet Research Guidelines

The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

### Session 1

**Wednesday, Feb. 6**

**Introduction and Overview**


**Docu.:** *Italy's Bloodiest Mafia: the Camorra*, by BBC

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hte9piNhyPI

### Session 2

**Wednesday, Feb. 13**

**Organized Crime: myths, theories and realities**

**Organized and Disorganized Crime. What is and not a mafia group**


**Group exercise:**

**To be or not to be organized, that is the question...**

We will stage a team debate on (1) whether it is more convenient for criminals that illegal markets are organized by mafia-like groups; (2) whether it is convenient for the government to face organized or disorganized criminal groups. For this debate, one student team will argue for and one against the suggested option. Teams should base their arguments on the readings, as well as additional materials given by the instructor.

### Session 3

**Wednesday, Feb. 20**

**The origins of organized crime**

- **GAMBETTA, D.** (1993), *The Sicilian..., Chapter 4*;

**Student assignment:** select and analyze one of these case studies. Feel free to rely on any type of sources (news, country reports, articles, websites, etc.) for further information and data.

1. **Russia**

2. **Japan**

3. **Italy (Camorra and ‘Ndrangheta)**
**Group exercise:**

Regime Breakdown and Organized Crime. A National Security Council Simulation

We will simulate a National Security Council Simulation. The students, playing roles of U.S. Cabinet officials and advisers, have to present a case of (possible/ongoing) regime breakdown around the world that can be negatively affected by organized crime. They have to respond to two different scenarios that focus on the possibility that (a) the regime change establishes an environment of political chaos where criminals take control of the state, or that (2) the breakdown is followed by an effective enforcement of rule of law by new ruling parties and actors. For this simulation, teams should rely on any type of text (video, news, policy reports, articles, websites, social media, etc) to make their case. Student teams will be decided in the class of 13 February.

(1) *Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime*, National Security Council
http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime


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**Session 4**

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Organizing Crime I. Organization and mafia-like groups in Italy


**Session 5**

Wednesday, March 6

Organizing Crime II. Organization and mafia-like groups in US and abroad


**Student assignment**: select and analyze one of these case studies. Feel free to rely on any type of sources (news, country reports, articles, websites, etc.) for further information and data.

**Case Study: Organized Crime in US**


**Case Study: The Russian Mafia**


**Case Study: The Japanese Yakuza**

**Case Study: The Chinese Triads**

### Session 6

**Wednesday, March 13**

*How Mafias Migrate: conditions and modalities.*

### Session 7

**Friday, March 15 9:00-12:00am**

MAKE-UP CLASS!

*Organizing Crime: illicit markets and mafia groups*

**Group exercise: Would Legalizing Drugs in US Help Mexico?**
We will stage a team debate on the on the potential impact of legalizing drugs in US to drug trafficking and violence in Mexico. For this debate, one student team will argue for and one against the suggested option. Teams should base their arguments on the readings for Sections 2,3,5, and 6, as well as their own research (news reports, policy papers, articles, websites, etc)


### Session 8

**Wednesday, March 20**

*MIDTERM EXAM and ESSAY*

*The multiple-choice test will be administered in the first 45 minutes of the class and it will cover all the readings from Sessions 2-6.*

*The essay questions will become available online from 9:00pm on March 13. Essays, in. doc, .rtf or .pdf format, should be e-mailed to the instructor (ss7176@nyu.edu) by midnight of March 20.*

### Session 9

**Wednesday, April 3**

*Legitimate Markets and Mafia groups*

**Student assignment**: Find evidence and information about cases of mafia infiltration in legitimate business. Feel free to rely on any further type of sources (news, policy papers, articles, websites, social media, etc) to make your case. In particular, choose and analyze one of these case studies.

**Case Study: The management and trafficking of special waste in Italy**
### Session 10

**Wednesday, April 10**

**The Nexus of Organized Crime and Politics**

**Case Study. Chicago: Crime and Politics in the 1920s**

**Case Study. Mexico**

### Session 11

**Wednesday, April 17**

**Mafias and Violence: when criminal families are at war and they challenge the state**


**Case Study. New York City: the Castellammarese War (1930-1931)**
- Critchley, D. (2009), Chapter 7

**Case Study: The political-mafioso homicides in Italy (1992-1994)**
- Dickie, J. (2004), Chapter 11

### Session 12

**Friday, April 19**

**Field Trip**: Visit to the Court House of Florence at the Direzione Distrettuale Antimafia. Followed by a visit in Via dei Georgofili, Florence, where a car bomb exploded on May 27th 1993.

### Session 13

**Wednesday, April 24**

**Top-Down Antimafia: Introduction to Antimafia Legislation in Italy and US**

**Docu-Drama**: Checkmate Provenzano (Scacco al re: La cattura di Provenzano), Rai-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 14</th>
<th>Bottom-up actions against mafias: civil society and the grassroots antimafia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hour 12:00 –2:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamieson, A. (2000), Chapter 3 &amp; 5;</td>
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<td>Docu.: Breaking the silence, documentary movie</td>
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<tr>
<td>The session will end in a review for Final Exam.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 15</th>
<th>FINAL EXAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multiple-choice final test</strong>: the test will be administered in the first 45 minutes of the class and it will cover all the readings from Sections 7-9-10, and 12-14.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The essay questions</strong> will become available online from 9:00pm on May 8. Essays, in. doc, .rtf format, should be e-mailed to the instructor (<a href="mailto:ss7176@nyu.edu">ss7176@nyu.edu</a>) by midnight of May 15.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Classroom Etiquette</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Cell phones should be turned off during class time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Co-curricular Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) April 19, 2013 Site visit: Visit Florence Court House and in Via dei Georgofili, Florence, where a car bomb exploded on May 27th 1993. Guest Participant: Direzione Distrettuale Antimafia, Tribunale di Firenze</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Suggested Co-curricular Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester.</td>
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