"Men die, their ideas carry on walking on other men’s legs". This statement by Judge Giovanni Falcone perfectly explains why to understand the mafia both a sociological and a historical perspectives are needed.

"Mafia" is one of a long list of words – like “pizza”, “spaghetti” and “opera” – that Italian has given to many other languages across the world. It is commonly applied to criminals far beyond Sicily and the United States, which are the places where the mafia in the strict sense is based. “Mafia” has become an umbrella label for whole world panoply of gangs – Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Chechen, Albanian, Turkish, and so on – that have little or nothing to do with the Sicilian original.

This course is a social history of the mafia in Sicily. Some of the most famous American Mafiosi, men like Lucky Luciano and Al Capone, also will be taken into consideration because the history of the Sicilian mafia cannot be understood without telling the story of the American mafia to which it gave birth. It is only when viewed from the coast of a small, triangular island in the Mediterranean that the history of the mafia in USA, at least in early stages, can begin to make sense.

The mafia of Sicily pursues power and money by cultivating the art of killing people and getting away with it, and by organizing itself in a unique way that combines the attributes of a shadow state, an illegal business, and a sworn secret society like the Freemasons.

Cosa Nostra is like a state because it aims to control a territory. With the agreement of the mafia as a whole, each mafia Family exercises a shadow government over the people within its territory... Protection rackets are for a mafia Family what taxes are for a legal government. Cosa Nostra is a business because it tries to make a profit – albeit by intimidation. Most of the income form protection rackets tends to get ploughed back into maintaining its murder capability: it buys lawyers, judges, policemen, journalists, politicians, and casual labor, and it supports Mafiosi unlucky enough to end up in prison.

Cosa Nostra is an exclusive secret society because it needs to select its affiliates very carefully and impose restrictions on their behavior in return for the benefits of membership. The chief demands that it makes of its members are that they be discreet, obedient, and ruthlessly violent.

The history of the organization is fascinating in its own right. But the history of the mafia cannot just be about the mafia, about the deeds of men of honor. Before Falcone and Borsellino, a great many other people died fighting the mafia. Some of them are characters in the drama. The mafia’s story also embraces the people who, for an assortment of motives ranging from rational fear, through political cynism, to downright complicity, have favored the organization’s cause.

There are plenty of contemporary examples that suggest Italy’s deeply rooted mafia problem is still very much alive. Life Senator Giulio Andreotti, the seven-times Prime Minister of Italy, has been under investigation for arranging to have the mafia murder a journalist who was blackmailing him. Another high-profile mafia case involves Senator Marcello Dell’Utri, the advertising executive who in 1993 founded Forza Italia, the political party of the Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The allegations are strongly denied, and one should not rush to draw conclusions about these individual trials. But as well as raising eye brows, they also raise historical questions about how Italy managed to get itself into such a predicament.

The course analyses the Sicilian Mafia through an historical, social and cultural perspective, tracing its progression from the National unity of Italy to the present day.

To understand the mafia a beginning point can be the Falcone’s statement quoted above. An analysis of the sociological aspects of the mafia is considered essential, including “the code of silence” or
omertà, the many different ways of violence, the social relationships within the organization, the role of women in Cosa Nostra, the way Mafiosi communicate with each other and the external world, the structures of power, the businesses of the mafia, and the relationships between mafia, politics, and religion.

2. OBJECTIVES, GOALS and OUTCOMES

The objective of this course is to give students an accurate and in-depth understanding of the Italian mafia. Most Americans and more generally 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 from the formed by popular movies.

By the end of this course, students should:
- distinguish between stereotypes and reality of mafia
- have a broad understanding of mafia and its history
- have a broad understanding of the other organised crime syndicates of Italy, such as Camorra, 'Ndrangheta and Sacra Corona Unita and their history
- be aware of the main problems connected to mafia and its activity and of the role of mafia in Italy and in the world
- demonstrate a capacity to construct a relevant and analytical response to an historical question.
- present coherent and persuasive arguments in oral and written form
- demonstrate self-management skills.

3. PREREQUISITES

There are no specific prerequisites to attend this course. The course is particularly recommended to Sociology, Politics and History students.

The class is held in English, but the terminology used is also in Italian and in Italian dialects when a translation is not possible or not appropriate.

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.

Individual extra costs are possible as the field research and the final oral presentation involve individual visits to a town, a library, and an Internet point or the student may have to buy extra books.

It is mandatory to bring the textbook to class. (see point 8)

Continuous lateness as well as leaving the class for long breaks without your instructor's permission definitely influences the evaluation of your participation (see point 8).

4. METHOD

Lessons will take the form of lectures, (in groups or individually). When appropriate, handouts and other materials will be distributed in class by the teacher, and audio/visual aids will be often used, in order to stimulate discussion on certain topics. At the same time, readings and discussions are intended to promote understanding and create insight into the processes of history and thinking historically.

5. ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed as follows:

A) Class participation,

During the course the students will have to take part into class activity: - participating to class discussions and presenting, when arranged, a brief oral summary and comment about the reading assignments.
- reading articles – when required - dealing with issues not covered by the textbook. After reading, they will explain their ideas and discuss with the rest of the class.
- make media (newspapers, magazines, web sites, broadcasts...) researches on the current news concerning Italian organized crime.
- provide contributions to class discussions showing knowledge and understanding of the issues discussed;
- asking perceptive and original questions;
- recognizing the value of the opinions of others;
- respecting the work of other students;
- helping to foster a positive group environment; a responsible, professional and collaborative

B) Oral presentation
All students will be requested to carry out a group or individual research project based on topics chosen by students dealing with mafia (history, recent issues, case study, specific aspects, etc.) supplemented by readings and material (e.g. Internet research, photos, videos, interviews, etc...). The choice of topic and partners for the group research will be completely free, but with the supervision of the teacher. Each group will be requested to prepare an oral presentation in class, based on the above mentioned group or individual research project.

The oral presentations should be educational and interesting for the other students, so feel free to develop the topic as you wish and to bring in class any helpful material such as videos, audios, photos, Power Point, slides, interviews, etc...

A simple reading from notes or directly from the article will not be accepted.

Students are invited to prepare copies of their presentations for all the rest of the class (estimated cost: 5-7 Euro) and distribute them during their presentation in order to facilitate the discussion.

The schedule of the oral presentations will be decided by the teacher and announced to the students before the mid-term test. The dates of the oral presentations cannot be changed (see rules of the school about the dates of the exams).

The choice of the topic must be communicated to the teacher by the second week of the course.

All the oral presentations will be graded individually.

C) Questionnaires on the books of Sciascia and Saviano
Students are required to read the textbooks by Sciascia (by June 3rd) and Saviano (by June 16th). During each class dedicated to the activities related to the above mentioned books, students will have one hour time to answer to the questions (3) included in a specific questionnaire.

After having written the questionnaire, the students will be invited to participate to a class debate on the books in matter.

6. EXAMS
- The mid-term test and the final exam are both questionnaires (short essay questions) based on the notes taken during the sessions, on the readings in the textbook and on the readings in the handouts provided by the teacher (see points 9 and 13).
- One important assignment is your oral presentation, based on a group or individual project to be chosen with the help and approval of the teacher (see point 5 for details).
- Two important assignments are the short questionnaires based on the reading of textbooks 2 and 3 (see point 5 for details).
- 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
10% First questionnaire and class debate (on Sciascia's The Day of the Owl reading assignment)
10% Second questionnaire and class debate (on Saviano's Gomorrah reading assignment)
20% Oral presentation
25% Midterm test
25% Final 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 consider that:
- if the student misses 20% of the scheduled class hours during this course (generally at the 3rd absence) the Final grade will be lowered by one full letter grade,
- if more than 20% of the scheduled class hours is missed, the final grade will be F and NO CREDITS will be given for this course.
• Missing half a class will be considered 1h 30’ absence.

If a class occasionally creates conflict with another class, the student is **required to inform in advance both instructors**. The instructors will then share a written excuse for the class going to be missed. A correct, active and responsible participation is insisted on, otherwise the participation grade will be strongly affected. Students are required to be respectful towards the instructor and their fellows.

**During lectures, students are not allowed to use any electronic devices (cell-phones, laptops, IPod, Blackberry etc.)**. Laptops will only be admitted if students use them for presentations.

As detailed in the LDM Rules of Conduct, students are expected to behave in class in a manner appropriate to a serious learning environment. In this environment, eating, sleeping, reading magazines or newspapers, keeping one’s feet on a chair, wearing sunglasses etc. are NOT considered appropriate. Students may leave the classroom only for acceptable reasons. In case of absence, students are responsible for taking notes from their fellows.

**It is important that students come to class on time. Three delays/early departures will be considered one absence.**

Students are required to **behave** properly within the school premises. 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.

It is responsibility of the student to catch up any missed work.

Make-up classes are always mandatory since part of the course program.

**Academic dishonesty:** should issues of academic dishonesty arise (plagiarism and so on), the teacher will refer to the LdM written policy on such matters.

### 9. READINGS and SOURCES

#### Required readings:
The course has three mandatory Text Books:
These books must be purchased at the Feltrinelli International library, Via Cavour 12/20/r, Florence. You may receive 15% discount.
3) Giorgio Saviano , Gomorrah: Italy's Other Mafia , **only the following chapters**: "The Secondigliano war"; "Cement"; "Don Peppino Diana"; "Land of fires".
   This book is available at the school' s library. The teacher has also some copies of it that you can borrow.

Further **hand-outs** will be given by the teacher when necessary.

#### Further readings:
The following works represent a valid bibliography for all class sessions and interesting optional sources for your paper. Please note that all mentioned books are available for reading at the LdM school library (Via dell’Alloro13) (see specific location code next to each title). Please check the library for new entries and other useful reading material.

**History of the Mafia:**
- Paoli L., Mafia brotherhoods , New York, Oxford Univ. Press, 2003 (It POL 73)
**Sociology of the Mafia:**

**Italian History and Culture:**
- Cresciani G.F., *The Italians*, Sydney, ABC, 1985 (HIST 24 IT)
- Duggan C., *A Concise History of Italy*, Cambridge, CUP, 1994 (HIST 22 IT)
- Holmes G., *The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy*, Oxford, OUP, 2001 (RCC 44T)
- Zanatini F., *What do you think of Italy?*, Firenze, Bulgarini, 2000 (HIST 21 IT)

**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 Minister of Interior page devoted to the mafia victims (in Italian)
- [http://www.interno.it/dip_ps/dia/](http://www.interno.it/dip_ps/dia/) Direzione Investigativa Antimafia’s six-monthly reports to parliament 8 in Italian.
- [http://www.centroimpastato.it/](http://www.centroimpastato.it/) the website of 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 on the following sites:
- [http://www.camera.it/_bicamerali/antimafia/home.htm](http://www.camera.it/_bicamerali/antimafia/home.htm)

**Suggested Movies:**
The movies indicated by a (*) are available at the library of school. They may be useful to understand in depth certain topics, or relevant to those students that are particularly interested in the subject. Not all of the movies below indicated are available with English subtitles.

**Organized crime in the USA:**
- (*) THE GODFATHER I, BY F.F. COPPOLA, 1972 (CIN COP 72)
- (*) THE GODFATHER II, BY F.F. COPPOLA, 1974 (CIN COP 74)
- (*) THE GODFATHER III, BY F.F. COPPOLA, 1990 (CIN COP 90)
- (*) LUCKY LUCIANO, BY F. ROSI, 1973 (CIN ROSI 73)
- (*) THE GOODFELLAS, BY M. SCORSESE, 1997 (CIN SCOR 90)
- (*) DONNIE BRASCO, BY M. NEWELL, 1997 (CIN NEW 97)

**Organized crime in Italy:**
- (*) SALVATORE GIULIANO, BY FRANCESCO ROSI, 1961 (CIN ROSI 61)
- (*) HANDS OVER THE CITY, BY FRANCESCO ROSI, 1963 (CIN ROSI 63)
- ILGIORNO DELLA CIVETTA, BY D. DAMIANI, 1967, FROM THE NOVEL BY L. SCIASCIA
10. ADDITIONAL COSTS
- € 29 for textbooks
- € 25 for the Mafia dinner

11 - VISITS and TRIPS
- There are two mandatory visits / field trips:
     Meeting point: in class at the usual class time.
     A typical Sicilian "Mafia" dinner (including antipasti, primi, secondo, dolce) will be served in the
     restaurant “Osteria dei Pazzi”, located in Via dei Lavatoi 3/r. The food and the traditions related
     to it will be explained by the teacher and discussed with the chef of the restaurant, available for
     students’ questions.
     The cost of the dinner is € 25, to be paid to the teacher by May 26th.
     Meeting point: inside the restaurant at 8:00pm.

12 - MATERIALS
Not pertinent.

13A - CLASS SCHEDULE
Note about the films scheduled for the course:
all the students are required to see in their entirety all the films scheduled below (only the ones available at the
school library). Please contact the school library for arrangements.

WEEK 1

1) May 25
   Introduction to the syllabus and to the course.
   Cosa Nostra, Ndrangheta, Sacra Corona Unita, Camorra: an introduction.

2) May 26
   The problem of the origins. Men of honor. Stereotypes about the Sicilian mafia.
   Film: "Cavalleria Rusticana" by P. Mascagni (excerpts).
   "The origins of the mafia" by E. Muzii, episode 1.
   Readings: textbook 1, Chapters 1, 2, 3.

3) May 27
   Hollywood cinema shaping and exporting the stereotype of the mafia and the
   "mafioso". The Italian answer.
   Films (all in excerpts):
   "Scarface" by H. Hawks; "Little Caesar" by M. LeRoy; "The Brotherhood" by
   M. Ritt; "Mean Streets" by M. Scorsese; "The Godfather" by F.F. Coppola;
   "Analyze this" by H. Ramis; "Il figliuoccio del padrino" by M. Laurenti.
   Readings: handout provided by the teacher.

4) May 28
   The history of the Mafia between the unification of Italy and the 1960’s.
   Film: "The origins of the mafia" by E. Muzii, episode 4.
   Readings: textbook 1, Chapters 4,5,6,7,8.
WEEK 2

5) June 1  The history of the Mafia from 1970's until 1990's.
   Film: "I cento passi" by M.T. Giordana.
   Readings: textbook 1, Chapters 9, 10.
   "Testimony" by Felicia Impastato (handout provided by the teacher)

6) June 2  NO CLASS – NATIONAL HOLIDAY (Founding of the Republic)

7) June 3  Questionnaire and class debate on L. Sciascia's "The Day of the Owl".
   Readings: textbook 2.

8) June 4  MID-TERM TEST

WEEK 3

9) June 8  The history of the Mafia from 1990's until today.
   Film: "in un altro paese" by M. Turco.
   Readings: textbook 1, Chapters 11, 12.

10) June 9  Visit: Via dei Georgofili (details at point 11).
        Readings: handout provided by the teacher.

11) June 10  The Mafia in America.
           Documentary: "Mafia history. La Cosa Nostra."
           Readings: textbook 1, Chapter 5.

12) June 11  Field trip: A typical Sicilian "Mafia" dinner (details at point 11).
           Readings: handout provided by the teacher.

WEEK 4

13) June 15  The Neapolitan Camorra and the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta
          Film: "Gomorrah" by M. Garrone (second part).
          Readings: handout provided by the teacher.

14) June 16  Questionnaire and class debate on R. Saviano's "Gomorrah".
            Film: "Gomorrah" by M. Garrone (second part).
            Readings: textbook 3.

15) June 18  FINAL EXAM

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 the following:

- A discussion and questionnaire
- A guided discussion
- A written class assignment
- A movie on mafia