

IT7008 *Cultures and Representations of the Mafia*

Module type Optional (approved module: MPhil in Comparative Literature)

Term / hours Hilary / 22

ECTS 10

Coordinator(s) Dr Giuliana Adamo
(gadamo@tcd.ie)

Lecturer(s) Dr Giuliana Adamo

Module description

This module aims to provide students with specific instruments necessary to have a better knowledge of the complexity, danger and pervasiveness of the Mafia global phenomenon. A wide variety of methodologies and approaches are used to examine this phenomenon, including history, religion, sociology, ethics, anthropology, cinema, literature, rhetoric, persuasion, reception theory, languages, codes, symbols, law and investigation techniques, economics and analysis of global financial markets. Each week focuses on a specific problem and explores its various aspects through analysis of set texts (history books, essays, literary works, laws, trial materials, cinema, TV, adverts, videogames, musical songs, etc.).

Assessment

The module is assessed through a 3,500-5,000-word essay.

Indicative bibliography

Week 1 (Historical and theoretical introduction)

- Dickie, John, *Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia* (Hodder Paperbacks, 2007).
- Nicaso, Antonio, *La mafia spiegata ai ragazzi* (Mondadori, 2010).
- *1860* (1934), dir. Alessandro Blasetti.
- *Il gattopardo* (*The Leopard*) (1963), dir. Luchino Visconti.
- *In nome della legge* (*In the name of the Law*) (1949), dir. Elio Petri.

Week 2 (The four Italian mafias: Cosa Nostra, Camorra, 'Ndrangheta, Sacra Corona Unita)

- Dickie, John, *Mafia Brotherhoods: Camorra, mafia, 'ndrangheta: the rise of the Honoured Societies* (Sceptre, 2012)
- Machiavelli, Niccolò, *Il principe. Trattato politico* (1513). Engl. Trans.: *The Prince*, available on line (see: <http://www.gutenberg.org>).
- Nicaso, Antonio, and Nicola Gratteri, *Fratelli di sangue* (Mondadori, 2009).

- Saviano, Roberto, *Gomorra* (Mondadori, 2006). Engl. Trans.: *Gomorrhah: Italy's Other Mafia* (Pan/Media tie-in edition: 2011).
- *Salvatore Giuliano* (1961), dir. Francesco Rosi.
- *Giovanni Falcone* (1993), dir. Giuseppe Ferrara.
- *Placido Rizzotto* (2000), dir. Pasquale Scimeca.
- *I cento passi* (2000), dir. Marco Tullio Giordana.
- *Gomorra* (2009), dir. Matteo Garrone.

Week 3 (From Sicily to US: the Italian and American Mafia)

- Bonanno, Joseph, *A Man of Honor. The Autobiography of Joseph Bonanno* (Mass Market Paperback (Reprint), 1983). Also available online.
- Nicaso, Antonio, and Lee Lamothe, *Global Mafia: The New World Order of Organized Crime* (Macmillan, 1995).
- Schneider, Jane, and Peter Schneider. "Mafia, Antimafia, and the Question of Sicilian Culture", *Politics & Society*, 22 (June 1994): 237-258.

Week 4 (Mafia and anti-mafia at war: the recent and current situation in Italy. Reflections on Mafia and Politics)

- Santino, Umberto, *Mafia and Antimafia: a Short History* (I.B. Tauris & Co, 2015)

Week 5 (Fiction and reality: the (mis-)representation of Mafia)

- Puzo, Mario, *The Godfather* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1969).
- Renga, Dana, *Mob Movies: A Reader* (Toronto UP, 2011).
- Renga, Dana, *Unfinished Business: Screening the Italian Mafia in the New Millennium* (Toronto UP, 2013).
- *The Godfather* (1972) and *The Godfather. Part II* (1974), dir. Francis Ford Coppola.
- *Scarface* (1983), dir. Brian De Palma.
- *Goodfellas* (1990) and *Casinò* (1995), dir. Martin Scorsese.
- TV Series: *The Untouchables* (1959-1963), *The Sopranos* (1999-2007).
- Adverts: Dolmio food, Dolce and Gabbana.

Week 6 (Mafia and literature)

- Sciascia, Leonardo, *Il giorno della civetta* (1961). Engl. trans.: *The Day of the Owl*, by Archibald Colquhoun.
- Lamothe, Lee, and Adrian Humphreys, *The Sixth Family: The Collapse of the New York Mafia and the Rise of Vito Rizzuto* (Harpercollins Canada, 2008).
- See also: <http://findpdf.net/about-a-man-of-honor-joseph-bonanno-download.html>.

Week 8 (Dismantling the Mafia popular myth: are they honourable men?)

- Eco, Umberto, *Trattato di semiotica generale* (1975). Engl. Trans: *A Theory of Semiotics* (1976).

- Nicaso, Antonio, and Marcel Danesi, *Made Men, Mafia culture and the Power of Symbols, Rituals, and Myth* (2013).

Week 9 (On Mafia children)

- No set texts. Particular attention will be paid on the current actions undertaken by Mr Justice Roberto Di Bella, President of the Juvenile Court in Reggio Calabria.

Week 10 (Women in the Mafia world)

- Longring, Clare, *Mafia Women* (Vintage, 1998).
- Merico, Marisa, and Douglas Thompson, *The Mafia Princess: They're Lawless. They're Criminal. They're Family* (Harper, 2010).

Week 11 (Mafia economics and global financial markets)

- Nicaso, Antonio, *Angels, Mobsters and Narco-Terrorists: The Rising Menace of Global Criminal Empires* (2005).
- Nicaso, Antonio, *Organized Crime & Money Laundering: The Globalization Revolution - A Business Reference for the 'New Economy'* (2001).

Week 12 (Conclusive points and class discussion)

- No set texts. Particular attention will be paid to recent and current anti-mafia actions.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Evaluate the fundamentals about original Italian mafias and current international mafias (USA, Russian, Mexican, Japanese, etc.), as well as anti-mafia legal methods and strategies.
- LO2 To distinguish between the main mafias in Italy and those in the rest of the world.
- LO3 Display knowledge of the complexity, seriousness, danger and pervasiveness of the Mafia as a global phenomenon.
- LO4 Apply different theories and critical instruments in order to deal with such a complex problem as the Mafia phenomenon.
- LO5 Develop a civil and social conscience about the Mafia phenomenon on the basis of a range of cultural theories.