



ROMA SOCI 310

The Economics of Organized Crime and Social Innovation

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Course Number: ROME SOCI 310 / 4 Credits

Course Description

According to Italian small traders association “Confersercenti”, organized crime represents the biggest segment of the Italian economy, accounting for more than \$127 billion in receipts. All over the world the mob influences governments and economies and the profits of money laundering often finances international terrorism.

A report issued in 2011 by Obama administration reminds that “in years past organized crime was largely regional in scope, hierarchically structured, and had only occasional links to terrorism. “Today’s criminal networks are fluid, striking new alliances with other networks around the world and engaging in a wide range of illicit activities, including cybercrime and providing support for terrorism.

In the South of Italy, for instance, organized crime kills real people, threatens those who oppose its overwhelming power, causing real pain in families and limiting communities’ and individuals’ freedom; it controls the economy and politics, makes money on any kind of legal business, corrupts politicians and civil servants and even influences the election of local administrators and MPs. Organized crime’s economic influence today goes far beyond the southern regions, reaching and investing huge quantities of money, and thus affecting, the rest of the country, Europe and, indeed, the world.

Luckily, in many regions of the South of Italy, civil society is forming a new, grass-root resistance to organized crime, thus contributing to the idea of a new society, a more responsible economy and social justice.

The aim of the course is to bring examples of real-life experience involving organized crime, and to understand how mafias gains huge amount of money and re-invest them all over the world. Students will analyze data, figures and specific events; they will have the chance to understand how this system affects the economic and institutional life of entire regions and the world economy; finally a focus will be made on the strategies to combat transnational organized crime at global level and to fight mafias at local level, especially thorough the Italian civil society entrepreneurship.

Learning Outcomes

The course will:

- Provide the students with information about organized crime all over the world;
- Focus on the mafia business side: how money are made and on money laundering;

- Reflect on how organized crime can influence the economic and institutional life in many part of the world;
- Learn about money laundering and anti-money laundering techniques;
- Provide the students with information on the all-powerful Italian organized crime, focusing on history, evolution and globalization of business empires, environmental organized crime, and reflecting on organized crime as local solution to global competition;
- Give the students the tools to examine the efficacy and effectiveness of social entrepreneurship and good governance as a response to economic crisis (case studies) and of active citizenship and transparent information as tools for change, even in territories affected heavily by organised crime.
- Reflect on the color of money.

Course Requirements

1. Required Readings:

Reading material will be posted in the blackboard

Bibliography:

- Behan Tom, "See Napoli and die" Macmillan, 2002
- Behan Tom, "The Untold Story of One Man Who Stood Up To The Sicilian Mafia, MacMillan, 2007
- Beham Tom, "How capitalism created the mafia", 2008
- Ginsborg, Paul: "Italy and Its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State: 1980-2001, Palgrave MacMillan – 2006;
- Jones, Tobias.: "The Dark Heart of Italy: Travels Through Time and Space Across Italy, 2003";
- Lilley Peter: Dirty Dealing: The Untold Truth About Global Money Laundering, International Crime and Terrorism - 3rd Edition". By Peter Lilley; Kogan Page, 2006
- Saviano R, "Gomorra – Italy's other Mafia", Macmillan, 2008;
- Sharman JC, "The Money Laundry - Regulating Criminal Finance in the Global Economy, Cornell Studies in Political Economy, 2011,
- UNODC, The Globalization of Crime A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment, 2010 Report
- UNODC, World Drug Report, 2010
- US Government : "Strategy to combat transnational organized crime - Addressing Converging Threats to National Security", July 2011

2. Tests and Papers: Mid-term Exam, Final Exam , Core Research Paper Project and Oral Presentation

3. A research project, presented as ppt oral presentation in class, will allow students to investigate in depth one aspect of organised crime economics which particularly interests

them. It will assess their ability to choose appropriate subject matter conducive to academic exploration and collect appropriate primary and secondary materials and analyze and present them in an original way, contextualized within the information discussed throughout the course.

4. Grading Criteria

25% Mid-term Exam

30% Final Exam

35% Research Project

10% Participation

5. Possible Films

Campania in-felix (2011), Una vita tranquilla (2010), Gomorra (2008), Beautiful cauntri (2007), Maria Full of Grace (2004), Mio cognato (2003), I Cento Passi (2000), Sud (1993), Il portaborse (1991), Le mani sulla città (1963)

Guest speakers

2 guest speakers will be invited (see schedule).

6&7.

- a) Mid-term and Final Exam will test students' ability to analyze material and theories presented during the course through short answers and essay questions
- b) An individual research project on a topic directly relevant to the course, chosen by the student, will assess their ability to identify a significant subject and analyze and present it in an original way, contextualized within the information discussed throughout the course.
- c) Student's participation will be assessed based on the analytical quality of the comments and questions they contribute to the class, their engagement with reading assignments and lecture information and their willingness to share these with the group.

8. 300 Level Course

9. Course Outline

Schedule of Classes and Readings

Lesson	TOPIC
1	Introduction to the course. Movie "Gomorra"
2	Mafias' main features through the analysis of "Gomorra". Geographic and historic outline of the Italian Mafias. Getting rid of mafia's stereotypes. Legal and cultural definition of organized crime
3	Introduction to the concept of social innovation and solidarity economy in Italy and the USA. Getting to know the Italian main organized crime syndicates: the cultural, social and economic frameworks
4	Best practices of solidarity economy in Italy. Features and figures of mafias' economy in the world. Main social innovation and anti - mafias global actors
5	Lecture: "Mafias and finance: International scenarios", Dr. Andrea Baranes (Fondazione Culturale Etica, CRBM)
6	Field Study in Naples, in Italy (with Organizational behavior + international business classes)
7	Recap + Midterm exam + outlining individual presentations
8	Organized crime as a threat to world economy: money laundering and gray areas
9	Organized crime and corruption: Italian and international case studies. Sustainability as an alternative to organized crime as an introduction to Tuscany field study
10	Field Study in Tuscany (with International finance class)
11	Comment to the field trip in Tuscany. Organized crime and corruption: Italian and international case studies. Introduction to environmental crimes.
12	Cocaine and other drugs: the international scenario.
13	Lecture: Environmental crimes: organized crime interests and the judicial responses", Judge Donato Ceglie
14	The anti-mafias solidarity economy. Reasoning on the color of money
15	Recap + Final exam: individual work presentation
16	Final test + comment

*To be confirmed.

Academic excursions:

- 1) Napoli, with Organizational behavior + international business classes: Napoli a big, beautiful gray area.
- 2) Tuscany, with International finance class: Sustainability as an alternative to organized crime

Policies:

The course follows Arcadia University's policies on attendance and plagiarism (see Student Handbook and Academic Contract)

Pre-requisites: None.

Rationale:

Organized crime today affects local economies; transnational organized crime affects the world economy, even financing terrorism. The war against mafias at global level is carried out by national and international agencies especially through AML (anti-money laundering) and, in Italy, through the confiscation of mafias' assets. In Italy, the government have been conducting so far seems to be ineffective as organized crime grows more and more powerful. Social innovation and solidarity economy, working on a different approach to economic and social values, is proving to give little but encouraging results, especially in those areas where the presence of organised crime is traditionally suffocating.

Special Conditions:

A classroom with PC, DVD player and projector

Bibliography: See before