

## Fall 2010    SOCIOLOGY 376-22: *The Mafia Business*

Principal instructor: Prof. Georgi Derluigian,  
Department of Sociology, 1810 Chicago Ave., rm 322  
Wednesdays, 5-8 PM at University Hall 121

**Course description:** Recently social scientists made a breakthrough in understanding the environmental conditions, institutions and strategies of organized crime. We shall explore these new theories using the 'classical' examples of Sicily, post-communist Russia and, of course, Chicago. We shall also explore the globalization of organized crime. In the second part of the course, students are required to do their own research in the library, make class presentations and submit the final investigative reports about other species of criminal undergrounds.

**Method:** Lecture and seminar discussions. The mid-term test is worth 40% (a take-home paper), final investigative report — 60%. THE FINAL PAPER SHOULD PRESENT YOUR OWN INVESTIGATION OF A PARTICULAR EXAMPLE OF ORGANIZED CRIME. IT MUST EXPLICITLY COMBINE THE THEORETICAL CONCEPTS LEARNED IN THIS COURSE WITH YOUR RESEARCH. THIS PAPER IS EXPECTED TO BE BETWEEN 15 AND 30 PAGES LONG.

### **Required books:**

- Randall Collins, *Sociological insight: an introduction to non-obvious sociology*. Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Diego Gambetta, *The Sicilian Mafia*. Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Misha Glenny, *McMafia: a journey through the global criminal underworld*. New York: Knopf Books, 2008.
- Gus Russo, *The Outfit: the role of Chicago's underworld in the shaping of modern America*, NY: Bloomsbury, any edition.
- Vadim Volkov, *Violent Entrepreneurs*. Cornell, 2002.
- Charles Tilly, “War making and State Making as Organized Crime”, pp. 165-191 in: *Roads from Past to Future*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1997 (photocopy)

### **Strongly recommended:**

#### ITALY

- Giuseppe Tomasi, prince di Lampedusa, *Leopard*. A Novel. (Any edition)
- Pino Arlacchi, *The Mafia Business*. Verso, 1987.
- Letizia Paoli. *Mafia brotherhoods*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

#### AMERICA

- Robert Cooley with Hillel Levine, *When Corruption Was King*. Carrol and Graf Publishers, 2004.
- Mike Royko, *Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago*. New York, Dutton, 1971.
- William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*, NY: Norton, 1991.
- *Handbook of organized crime in the United States*, edited by Robert J. Kelly, Ko-lin Chin, and Rufus Schatzberg, Westport: Greenwood Press, 1994.

#### OTHER COUNTRIES

- Federico Varese, *The Russian Mafia*, Oxford, 2001.
- David Kang, *Crony Capitalism: Corruption and Development in South Korea and the Philippines*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002
- David E. Hoffman, *The Oligarchs. Wealth and Power in the New Russia*. NY: Public Affairs, 2002.
- Will Reno, *Warlord Politics and African States*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1998.
- Bertil Lintner, *Blood Brothers: The criminal underworld of Asia*, NY: Palgrave, 2003.
- Peter Dale Scott, *Drugs, oil, and war: the United States in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Indochina*, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

### Schedule of classes:

22/IX **Introductory lecture: from rovers to stationary bandits.** Read Charles Tilly's classic "War making and State Making as Organized Crime". **Plus some basic criminology.** Read on the 'Normalcy of Crime' in Randall Collins's *Sociological Insight*

29/IX **The classical case.** Gambetta, *The Sicilian Mafia* Start with CONCLUSION and INTRODUCTION. Then go into Part II (you must understand The Origins, The Cartel, The Trademarks).

6/X **FILM** Read Gambetta, now Parts I and III (i.e. finish the book)

13/X **The collapse of communism as business opportunity.** Volkov, *Violent Entrepreneurs*. The whole book.

20/X ***Probiivka, nayezd, strelka, razborka, BESPREDDEL: the operations of Russian mafia.*** Read Volkov's book to the end.

27/X **Chicago.** Read Gus Russo's *Outfit*. Recommended: Mike Royko's classic *Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago*. (New York, Dutton, 1971) and the more recent revelations from Robert Cooley, *When Corruption Was King*.

3/XI. **Globalization and mafia opportunities.** Read Misha Glenny, *McMafia*, the whole book.

THE MID-TERM THEORETICAL QUIZES ARE DUE ON **November 10** IN CLASS. You will be given one week and no more than 10 pages to answer several questions drawn from the class readings.

10/XI **Theoretical Summary.** Seminar discussion. The bravest of students present their investigative reports.

17/XI Student investigative reports

24/XI The very last of student investigative reports

The final version of investigative reports are due on December 1 no later than 5 o'clock.