

## **CT272. History and Politics in Modern Day Sicily**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the history of Sicily since the Unification of Italy; particular attention will be given to the development of Sicilian Mafia. After a general overlook about the idea of Nation, the first part will analyse the Sicilian role in the *Risorgimento* (Unification of Italy), the relationship between the Government in Rome and Sicily in the early post-unitarian phase and the economical asset of the island in the new state. After the turning point of the fascist age the first part will end with the "Operation Husky" (Allied landing in 1943). The second part will describe the new intercourse of the Republic and the particular autonomy given to Sicily in the new democratic state since the WWII till the fall of the Berlin wall and the born of the so called *Seconda Repubblica* (Second Republic). The third part will be dedicated to a general overview of Sicilian politics in the last fifteen years. The analysis of the Sicilian Mafia as historical structure, a changing organization during the Italian history, will be spread among the three parts with dedicated lectures.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The course aims to equip students with a systematic comprehension of Sicilian history. It provides the methodological instruments to analyse historical events from a local point of view and link them with the world history. For this reason Sicily will be considered a "Case Study" to apply different historical approaches, from a base political one to social history, and different techniques of historical research, from oral history to environmental one. Moreover the course will describe the links between Sicily and English historiography and how the latter dealt with problems and stereotypes about the island.

### **METHOD & REQUIREMENTS**

Classes mainly consist of lessons given by the professor. Every lesson will focus a important issue of Sicilian history and will be based on multimedia presentations. Students are encouraged to ask questions and express personal opinions, thus the short reading proposed in the scheduled are compulsory for the attendance. In addition, every lesson will be introduced by a student. The presentation will consist in 5 slides which will synthesize the main topics of the coming lesson. The presentations will be evaluated as part of the "Class attendance and participation" grade.

Students are recommended to take notes of the material presented in class: lectures represent the main didactic base for the mid-term and final exams. Individual study of readings is required on a weekly basis.

## ATTENDANCE - PARTICIPATION - SEMESTER SESSION ABSENCE POLICY

Students are requested to arrive on time. Late arrival will result in an unexcused absence after the roll call. Early departures from class are excused only by previous agreement authorized by the Resident Director.

Class attendance is mandatory (also in case of make-up classes) and counts towards the final grade. Every absence can lower the attendance grade.

## REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS & GRADING SYSTEM

10% Class attendance and participation  
15% Oral presentation  
25% Midterm exam  
20% Paper  
30% Final exam

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100% Course Grade

### ORAL PRESENTATION - PAPER

The topic for the oral presentations will be proposed by the students and confirmed by the professor by **September 30th, Week 4**. Students can either focus on a subject already discussed in class or concentrate on a topic of their liking. The presentations will be given in class and are individual. Each talk should not exceed 45 minutes. Students can choose the format they prefer: posters and multimedia presentations are most welcome. Students should transform the presentation into a paper of about 2000 words. The paper should include clear references to **at least two** secondary **Academic** sources. Criticism and personal opinions are particularly encouraged. No compulsory readings are scheduled in **week 7, 9** for allowing the students to focus on their Papers.

### MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS

**The mid-term exam** consists of two parts (I. 4 short questions - short answers; II. an essay question) regarding the topics discussed up until that point (all questions will require an answer). **The final exam** consists of two parts (I. 4 short questions - short answers; II. **two** essays) and concerns the topics discussed after the mid-term exam.

### CET Grading Scale:

100 - 98 A+; 97 - 93 A ; 92 - 90 A - ; 89 - 87 B +; 86 - 83 B; 82 - 80 B -; 79 - 77 C +; 76 - 73 C; 72 - 70 C -; 69 - 67 D +; 66 - 63 D; 62 - 60 D -; 59 - 0 F.

Final grades will be automatically rounded to the nearest whole percentile : .1 -.4 rounds down, .5-.9 rounds up.

\*\*\*\*\* Please note: any information that is not reported on this syllabus can be found on the CET Academic Policy received during orientation and available to consult on the Academic Bulletin Board and at the Resident Director office.

## REQUIRED READINGS - TEXT BOOK

### Textbook:

A - M. I. Finley, D. Mack Smith, C. Duggan, *A History of Sicily*, Chatto & Windus, 1986;

B - John Dickie, *Cosa Nostra. A History of Sicilian Mafia*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004

The Reader consisting of the compulsory readings, **other than chapters of the textbooks**, will be available at the beginning of the course. Further supplementary sources are indicated in the Bibliography (II). Students can use them to prepare oral presentations and write papers.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Session by session breakdown of topics to be covered, activities, assignments and deadlines

### Week 1: September 7-9

#### *(Introductory class)*

*A new State for the Old Sicily.*

*The unification with Italy.*

**Readings:** Duggan, *A concise history of Italy*, Chap 4-5, 87-142.

- Course presentation; distribution of the syllabus; course requirements and course expectations; assignments; oral presentations, mid-term and final exams.

### Week 2: September 14-16

*Liberal Sicily.*

*Revolution and Repression in Sicily till the Great War*

**Readings:** Duggan, *A concise history of Italy*, Chap 6-7, 143-204.

### Week 3: September 21-23

*Uprooting Cosa Nostra.*

*Mafia as a phenomenon of the new state*

**Screening and discussion of the documentary movie**

*"The Leopard"*

*By Luchino Visconti*

**Readings:** B) Chap 1, Genesis of Mafia, 5-55.

### Week 4: September 28-30

*Sicily in the Fascist Era.*

*The quiet decades prepare the explosion*

**Readings:** A) Chap XXIII, , 312-327.

**DEADLINE FOR THE CHOOSING OF THE TOPIC FOR ORAL PRESENTATION**

### Week 5: October 5-7

*Cosa Nostra and Rome.*

*Mafia through Liberalism and Dictatorship.*

**Readings:** B) Chap 4, 153-196.

**Week 6: October 12-14**  
Review for the Midterm  
**MID-TERM EXAM (2 HOURS)**

**Week 7: October 19-21**  
*Operation Husky.*  
*The Allied landing in Sicily, 1943.*  
*Visit to the "Museo dello Sbarco"*

**Readings:** No Reading required.

**Week 8: November 4**  
*The Long Sicilian Postwar.*  
*Mafia and Banditry, 1943-1948.*

**Reading:** A) Chap. XXIV, 328-348.  
B) Chap 6, 243-282.

**Week 9: November 9-11**  
*The Economic Boom and "Questione Meridionale".*  
*The Sicilian way to Industrialization.*

**Readings:** No Reading required

**Week 10: November 16-18**  
1968

*The social revolution in Italy and Sicily*

**Readings:** Ginsborg, Chap. 9, 298-348

**Week 11: November 23-25**  
*The shift of the Mafia economy*

*Cosa Nostra and the Republic: alternative path of administration?*

**Screening and discussion of the documentary movie**

*Cento Passi*

*By Marco Tullio Giordana*

**Readings:** B) Chap. 7, 283-318.

**Week 12: November 30- December 2**

*The night of the republic.*

*Sicily and the fallen of the Berlin wall.*

**Readings:** B) Chap. 11, 427-470.

**PAPERS SUBMISSION**

**Week 13: December 7-9**  
*Presentations and Final Review*

**Week 14: December 15**  
**Final Exam**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER READING MATERIAL

**Bibliography (I).** A significant part of the readings is scheduled for the class. The rest is **compulsory** for the mid and final exams. **Bibliography (II)** contains extra readings not listed in the class schedule but which may be useful in class at some moment during the term or to the student during revision. Other additional texts on relevant issues that may come under the focus of the class during the semester will be provided by the instructor. Handouts and visual material used in class will be included in the revision and in the mid and final exams

### I. Required:

**Finley, M. I. - Mack Smith, D. - Duggan, C.** *A History of Sicily*, Chatto & Windus, 1986;  
Chap. XIX: "Last years of the Bourbons domination";  
Chap XX: "Unification";  
Chap XXI: "Repression, revolt and the failure of the reform";  
Chap XXII: "The failure of Liberalism";  
Chap XXIII: "Fascist Sicily";  
Chap XXIV: "Autonomy".

**Dickie, John** *Cosa Nostra. A History of Sicilian Mafia*, Palgrave Macmillan , 2004;  
Chap 1-6 (including introduction) for the mid-term exam;  
Chap 7-12 for the final exam.

**Duggan, Christofer**, *A concise history of Italy*, Cambridge University Press, 1994.  
Chap 4-7

### II. Supplementary:

**Blok, Anton** *The Mafia of a Sicilian Village 1860-1960 : A Study of Violent Peasant Entrepreneurs*, Blackwell Publishers, 1974

**Dickie, John** *Darkest Italy: The Nation and Stereotypes of the Mezzogiorno, 1860-1900*, Palgrave Macmillan , 1999.

**Ginsborg, Paul** *A History of Contemporary Italy: Society and Politics, 1943-1988*, Palgrave Macmillan , 2003.

*Italy and Its Discontents. 1980-2001*, Penguin Books, 2001.

**Riall, Lucy** *Sicily And The Unification Of Italy. Liberal Policy And Local Power, 1859-1866*, Oxford University Press, 1998.

**Schneider, Jane** *Culture and Political economy in Western Sicily*, Academic Press, 1974