



Organized Crime  
Department of History  
**College of Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
HIST 6003  
M: 5:30-8:20 P.M.  
Spring 2022

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Whitney Snow  
Office: OD 223  
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 P.M.; Wednesdays from  
11:00 A.M.-noon.; and by appointment  
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### **Course Description**

#### **Textbooks**

- \*Adler, Tim. *Hollywood and the Mob: Movies, Mafia, Sex, and Death*. Bloomsburg, 2007.
- \*Bernstein, Lee. *The Greatest Menace: Organized Crime in Cold War America*. Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2002.
- \*English, T.J. *Havana Nocturne: How the Mob Owned Cuba and then Lost it to the Revolution*. New York: William Morrow, 2008.
- \*Lombardo, Robert M. *Organized Crime in Chicago: Beyond the Mafia*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2012.
- \*Renga, Dana, ed. *Mafia Movies: A Reader*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019.
- \*Schatzberg, Rufus and Robert J. Kelly. *African American Organized Crime: A Social History*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1997.
- \*Smith, Chris M. *Syndicate Women: Gender and Networks in Chicago Organized Crime*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2019.
- \*Varese, Federico. *Mafias on the Move: How Organized Crime Conquered New Territories*. Princeton University Press, 2013.

#### **Recommended Reading**

- \*Critchley, David. *The Origin of Organized Crime in America: The New York City Mafia, 1891-1931*. Routledge, 2008.
- \*Maas, Peter. *The Valachi Papers*. New York: Perennial, 2003.

## Grading

Assignments	Points
Book Review #1	10%
Book Review #2	10%
Book Review #3	10%
Movie Assignment #1	5%
Movie Assignment #2	5%
Movie Assignment #3	5%
Term Paper	25%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

## Exams

\*This course includes one exam which will include both identification terms and essay questions.

\*Both the midterm and final exam will be uploaded to a folder in D2L. Once you log-in to D2L, click on the nine-block square and find our class. Once in our classroom dashboard, click on Assessments, then click on Assignments. You should then see the respective folders for the midterm and final.

\*See schedule for due dates.

## Book Reviews

\*Students will be expected to select three books from a list of approved options (posted on D2L) and writing a book review on each.

\*The book reviews must be typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 inches on the left and right.

\*Upload each book review to a folder in D2L. Once you log-in to D2L, click on the nine-block square and find our class. Once in our classroom dashboard, click on Assessments, then click on Assignments. You will see different folders for Book Review #1, Book Review #2, and Book Review #3.

\*More in-depth instructions and samples are posted on D2L.

\*See schedule for due dates.

## Movie Assignments

\*Students are expected to write three 5-6-page movie critiques. Students may select any two of the following movies: *Prizzi's Honor* (1985); *GoodFellas* (1990); *Bugsy* (1991); *Mobsters* (1991); *Billy Bathgate* (1991); *Hoffa* (1992); *Casino* (1995); *Donnie Brasco* (1997); *The Irishman* (2019); or *Lansky* (2021). Click on "Content" and then click on "Movie Review Instructions."

\*Your essays must be typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman and double spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 on the left and right. Submit your film critique via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Movie Assignment #1," "Movie Assignment #2," and "Movie Assignment #3."

## Term Paper

\*Students will be expected to write a 15-page research paper. Please choose from a list of approved topics on D2L.

\*Your paper should be based on both primary and secondary sources and must include a thesis (argument). Use at least 15 books (preferably those published by university presses). Use at least 5 peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters. These can be found either in Moffett Library or in its online databases.

\*When it comes to footnotes and your bibliography, adhere to the 17th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

\*Papers should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font.

\*The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 on the left and right.

\*The **Term Paper Abstract** is due on January 17. Your abstract should include a title and a minimum of 600 words detailing your approach to your term paper topic. If you already have a thesis, great! If not, that's ok given your project is just beginning. If you don't have a thesis, maybe include the question or questions you hope to answer. Please submit via D2L under "Assessments." On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Term Paper Abstracts." You must submit your abstract by 11:30 P.M. on the due date.

\*The **Term Paper Rough Draft** is due on March 7. Please submit via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Term Paper Rough Draft." You must submit your rough draft by 11:30 P.M. on the due date.

\*The **Term Paper Final Draft** is due on April 18. Please submit via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Term Paper." You must submit your term paper by 11:30 P.M. on the due date. See D2L for further information on how to write a term paper. Each graduate student will present their findings to the class.

\*Each student will present their paper at the MSU Texas **Celebration of Scholarship** (date TBA)

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

Students who miss class due to university-related activities will be able to make up the exam. In cases of a doctor's excuse and/or a family death, students will be able to make up the exam and turn in book reviews/movie critiques late. Note that in case of a family death, no more than one week's absence is permitted.

### **Office Hours**

If the door is closed during the instructor's appointed office hours, it doesn't mean she is not there. ***Just knock!*** If the instructor steps out for any reason, she will place a post-it note on the door. It will indicate an estimated time of return. If the instructor's office hours conflict with your schedule, feel free to see her after class or email her in regards to making an appointment.

### **Important Dates**

Last day for term schedule changes: January 10-13.

Deadline to file for May graduation: February 14

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 21

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### **Attendance**

\*While attendance is not part of your grade, it is nevertheless expected and will be taken into consideration if a student is close between letter grades. Official university absences will be excused. A student with excessive unexcused absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor.

### **Instructor Class Policies**

\*Attendance requires more than being present in class. It means showing up prepared; contributing insightful information and appropriate questions to class discussions; and exhibiting respect for classmates and the instructor.

\*Discussion is key, especially given the size of the class.

\*The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule.

### Course Schedule

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 10 (Mon)	Course Introduction; Term Paper Discussion
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 17 (Mon)	<b>MLK, Jr. Day</b> <b>*Term Paper Abstracts due</b>
<b>Week 3</b> Jan 24 (Mon)	Lombardo, Chapters 1-4 Renga, Chapters 1-2 <b>*Movie Assignment #1 due</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Jan 31 (Mon)	Lombardo, Chapters 5-8 Renga, Chapters 3-4 <b>*Book Review #1 due</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 7 (Mon)	Smith, Chapters 1-3 Renga, Chapters 5-6
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 14 (Mon)	Smith, Chapters 4-7 Renga, Chapters 7-8; and Chapters 61-66 <b>*Movie Assignment #2 due</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Feb 21 (Mon)	Bernstein, Chapters 1-4 Renga, Chapters 9-10 <b>*Midterm</b> (take via D2L by 11:30 P.M. on Feb 21)
<b>Week 8</b> Feb 28 (Mon)	Bernstein, Chapters 5-8 Renga, Chapters 11-12 <b>*Book Review #2 due</b>
<b>Week 9</b> March 7 (Mon)	Adler, Chapters 1-6 Renga, Chapters 13-14 <b>*Term Paper Rough Draft due</b>
<b>Week 10</b> March 14 (Mon)	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>Week 11</b> March 21 (Mon)	Adler, Chapters 7-13 Renga, Chapters 15-16

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
<b>Week 12</b> March 28 (Mon)	Schatzberg, Chapters, 1-9 Renga, Chapters 17-18 <b>*Movie Assignment #3 due</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Apr 4 (Mon)	English, Chapters 1-7 Renga, Chapters 19-20 <b>*Book Review #3 due</b>
<b>Week 14</b> Apr 11 (Mon)	English, Chapters 8-14 Renga, Chapters 21-22; Chapters 67-72
<b>Week 15</b> Apr 18 (Mon)	Varese, Chapters 1-3 Renga, Chapters 23-24 <b>*Term Papers due</b> <b>*Term Paper Presentations</b>
<b>Week 16</b> Apr 25 (Mon)	Varese, Chapters 4-7

**Final Exam:** TBA