

HI2K8-15 History of Global Organised Crime

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Benjamin Smith

Credit value

15

Module duration

2 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

Venice WIISP

Description

Introductory description

This module aims to tell the story of the rise and fall of large-scale organised crime groups during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students will be asked to engage with literature from history, criminology, and political science.

Module aims

Two big stories dominate the history of the past two centuries - the formation of the modern nation state and the global rollout of liberal capitalism. Organised criminal groups have been integral to both. They have taxed and protected what the state can't or won't. And they have pioneered forms of trade and economic administration when legal corporations have remained risk averse. This course introduces students to the world of the Italian and American mafias, the Japanese Yakuza, the Chinese Tong gangs, and the Mexican cartels and places them at the center of the story of the modern world.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Session 1 What is organized crime?

Session 2 Early forms of organized crime

Session 3 The Japanese Yakuza

Session 4 The Chinese Tongs

Session 5 The Italian Mafia 1: Beginnings

Session 6 The Italian Mafia 2: Smuggling

Session 7 The Italian Mafia 3: The State

Session 8: Globalisation

Session 9: The Colombian Cartels

Session 10: The Mexican Cartels

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- To evaluate and critique the relationship between organised crime and capitalism
- To evaluate and critique the relationship between organised crime and state formation
- To engage with historiographical debates and think about the history and legacy of different historical concepts
- To encourage independent research, historiographical engagement, and the development of critical analysis
- To gain interpersonal and communication skills through the delivery of a presentation

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Interdisciplinary

History, Criminology, Anthropology, Political Science

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes

Transferable skills

Work effectively with others in group tasks and in teams; Plan and manage time in projects; Develop strong analytical skills; Use appropriate analytic methods to analyse texts on crime, state and capitalism. Read academic papers effectively in the context of an intensive programme; Communicate clearly and effectively in discussions; Communicate ideas effectively in writing.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Private study	130 hours (87%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
3000 word essay	80%	12 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will reflect on a question related to the themes of the module, with reference to relevant historiographical debates			

Reassessment component is the same

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Class presentation	20%	10 hours	No
Class presentation and guidance through reading			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback provided via Tabula; optional oral feedback in office hours. Peer feedback on presentations.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ34 Undergraduate English and History (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)