Course Overview

The world we are living in is facing dramatic demographic changes. According to the United Nations, by 2030, 80 per cent of the world population will live in urban areas. Cities are already becoming around the world, but also here in the United States, the theatre of new social and violent conflicts. In the near future, we will increasingly observe less peasant insurgency and more urban insurgency, fewer guerrillas and more gangs. In fact, urban areas are becoming the hubs of transnational flow of commodities and people, and of both licit and illicit markets.

This course will explore the contribution that anthropological studies and ethnographic methods can provide to the analysis of the structural violence, crime and overt violence, and how this understanding can contribute to the design of interventions to manage violence and conflict.

The course will have an interdisciplinary approach and will in particular draw from the fields of anthropology, sociology and social psychology. Throughout the course, these disciplines will be in dialogue with the applied mathematic concepts of dynamical system and the theories of intractable conflicts.

Students will not only become familiar with the study of important social scientists, but will have also an opportunity to apply the concepts learned in mapping and in analyzing a case study in urban violence.

Furthermore, the instructor will provide insights he has gained over the past 20 years in working as both a practitioner and as a scholar in challenging urban context such as Palermo, in Italy, in the fight against the Sicilian Mafia, in Medellin Colombia, and currently in Newark, New Jersey.

The history and dynamics of Newark, will be the case study on which students will do research.

Learning Objectives

By successfully completing this course, students will:

- Become familiar with key concepts and notions in social science with respect to urban space and urban life;
- Expand the critical thinking skills in dealing with complex dynamics.
- Deepen their knowledge in conflict resolution theory.
- Apply notions of intractability to the analysis and mapping of complex and violent
urban areas.

- Learn how to translate social science notions into a language that is appealing to policy makers.
- Increase their presentation skills.

Class Format
The class is run as a seminar and will have the following components:

**Lecture:** the instructor will offer an overview of the main theories and concepts, which sustain the theoretical framework of the class.

**Discussion:** students will be engaged in meaningful discussion of the readings and will be challenged by the instructor in their assumptions. This part will be a fundamental component of the learning process, of increasing critical thinking skills, and in familiarizing with complex notions.

**Movies:** students will be analyzing one movie and one documentary, using interpretative models that are suggested by the practice of anthropology.

**Study Group:** the class will be divided up in groups, and each group will have the opportunity to analyze aspects of the violence in Newark. This will give the opportunity to students to move from theory to practice, and to apply theoretical frameworks to real situations.

**Guest Speakers:** students will engage in a conversation with people who embody different aspects of the urban experience. The instructor will facilitate a conversation with a former gang member, a community leader, and a policy maker.

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**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**Required Reading**
- Orlando, Leoluca (2001) *Fighting the Mafia and Renewing Sicilian Culture* (Encounter Books)

**Recommended Reading**
Assignment Format
Students will engage in the following assignments:

Mid-Term Exam: Students will respond to 3 questions that will cover all the readings done until the date of the exam. Students will have to demonstrate comprehension of the readings. They will be able to use their hand-written notes, but will not be allowed to use books or typed notes.

Reading Response Paper: Students will write a response paper to reflect on the insights they have gained by doing the readings in Part 1 of the course. Each student will choose a theme that emerges from the readings and discuss it in their 5-page paper. This is a take-home exam.

Final Research Paper: Students will write a research paper on one of the aspects of violence in a city of their choice. They will have to apply the social theory as presented in the readings and the class, as well as using Peter Coleman’s Dynamic System Theory to analyze their case. The conclusion of the paper will have to include policy recommendation on how the conflict and violence of their case-study can be resolved. The paper should be between 15 and 20 pages. The format: 1 inch. Margins, Times New Roman, 12pts.

Projects
Case Study Presentation: Each Study Group will have to choose a case study and analyze it using the mapping tools and the concepts presented in Peter Coleman’s book The Five Percent. Each group will have the opportunity to present their work before the class and to engage in a discussion/defense with their colleagues and with the instructor. On the day of the presentation, the group will have to submit also a report in which the method, the process, a copy of the map and the conclusion will be presented. The report should have a length between 5 and 10 pages. In order to prepare the presentation, students are encouraged to explore the following websites:

www.ted.com
www.duarte.com

Grading
Participation: 20%
Mid-Term Exam: 20%
Reading Response Paper: 20%
Final Research Paper: 20%
Case Study Presentation: 20%

A = 89.5-100 B+ = 84.5-89.49 B = 79.5-84.49 C+ = 74.5-79.49 C = 69.5-74.49 D = 59.5-69.49 F = 0-59.49
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEEK 2 (Jan 26) INTRODUCTION: URBAN VIOLENCE AS INTRACTABLE CONFLICT
Readings:
Coleman, Peter Protracted Conflicts as Dynamical Systems (BB)
The World Bank, Violence in the City (BB)
Muggah, Robert Manifesto for the Fragile City (BB)
UNDP, Citizen Security (BB)

PART 1: THE SOCIAL SCIENCE OF URBAN VIOLENCE

WEEK 3 (Feb 2)
Readings:
Lederach, John Paul The Moral Imagination, Chapter 1 and 2
Kilcullen David, Out of the Mountains, Chapter 1 and 2
Goldstein, Daniel In Our Hands (BB)
Goldstein, Daniel Getting Engaged (BB)
De Boher, John, Resilience and the Fragile City,
http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.fk/

DUE DATE: Case-Study Working Groups are finalized

WEEK 4 (Feb. 9)
Readings:
Kilcullen David, Out of the Mountains, Chapters 3,4, 5 and Appendix
Vigil, James Diego Urban Violence and Streets Gangs
Bourgois, Philippe, In Search of Respect, Chapters 1-3

WEEK 5 (Feb. 16)
Readings:
Bourgois, Philippe In Search of Respect, Chapters, 4-5-6

DUE DATE: Case-Study Working Groups present essential bibliography on their case

WEEK 6 (Feb. 23)
Readings:
Bourgois, Philippe In Search of Respect, Chapters, 7-8 and Conclusions
Zilberg, Elana Space of Detention, Part One

WEEK 7 (March 1)
Readings:
Zilberg, Elana Space of Detention, Part Two

WEEK 8 (March 8) - MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 9 (SPRING BREAK)
PART 2: URBAN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

WEEK 10 (March 22)
Readings:
Zilberg, Elana *Space of Detention*, Part Three and Conclusion
Coleman Peter, *The Five Percent*, Part 1 and 2

Due Date: Readings Response paper

WEEK 11 (March 29)
Readings:
Coleman, Peter, *The Five Percent* Part 3 and 4
Lederach, John Paul *The Moral Imagination*, Chapters 9 through 15

DUE DATE: Working Groups present draft of dynamical system map of their case.

WEEK 12 (April 5)
Orlando, Leoluca, *Fighting the Mafia and Renewing Sicilian Culture*
Schneider, Jane and Peter Schneider, *Mafia, Antimafia, and the Plural Cultures of Sicily*

WEEK 13 (April 12)
Kennedy, David *Don’t Shoot*

PART 3: APPLYING THE SCIENCE. LEARNING THE PRACTICE

WEEK 14 (April 19)
Group Presentations

WEEK 15 (April 26)
Group Presentations
Final Discussion

TERM PAPER: The term paper will have to be submitted to the professor by email no later than Tuesday May 10 2016, by 10pm.