



**CJC 372: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY  
AND THE JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

**Summer 2025 / Classroom TBD**  
**Course Schedule: M/W 9:00am – 12:20pm**  
**Office Hours: M/T 12:30pm – 1:30pm**

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This course introduces students to topics at the intersection of race, ethnicity, migration, conflict, and crime within the context of the Mediterranean. We will primarily focus on Italy's experience with migration from past to present, detailing first the Roman Empire's experience with migration before shifting to current trends in migration such as from conflict zones throughout the Mediterranean (especially the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)). The course will examine how migration has historically and contemporaneously impacted Italian criminal justice, politics, and society by studying the role various Italian institutions, such as the Catholic Church and Catholic charities as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations, have played in addressing migration and crime in Italy.

In terms of structure, the first section of the course introduces students to the long history of Italian, specifically Roman, migration, where we will take a focused look at historic migrations. This will include a site visit to the Roman Forum where "All Roads" once led as well as Rome's multicultural Jewish Quarter, which includes the oldest Jewish community outside of the Middle East. Next, we examine emerging issues in the globalization of crime as it relates to modern issues of race, nativism, and migration, orienting our approach around what scholars call the "Migration-Crime Nexus." This section seeks to contextualize the legacy of migration from a comparative and historical perspective before moving to the modern situation of migration in Italy and the Mediterranean. Here, students will engage with scholarship on how migration impacts criminal offending as well as how racial stereotypes regarding migrants and migration leads to increased migrant victimization, complicating both scholarly work and reform efforts.

The second section of the course introduces students to the innerworkings of international criminal justice institutions as well as that of international and comparative laws that address the challenges posed by the Migration-Crime Nexus. Here we will examine how migration is impacted by international conflict, especially civil conflict in the MENA region, and how migrants are affected by organized crime organizations in Italy. We simultaneously examine how conflict and crime are handled by international organizations such as the United Nations, international law enforcement agencies such as INTERPOL, as well as Italian criminal justice organizations. A concluding section examines how Catholic non-government organizations and charities in Italy have approached the challenges of migration, which will also include a site visit to a Jesuit refugee center.

## **KEY LEARNING OUTCOME**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues relating to - and current research and theory about - race and ethnicity and their relationship to crime and criminal case processing with a specific focus on Rome, Italy

## **ADDITIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES**

2. Students will become familiarized with the academic study of race, migration, and crime including the main themes, theoretical concepts, and debates from the field

3. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the key debates on the history of concepts such as “international crime,” “race and racism,” “migration,” and “globalization”

4. Students will gain a capacity for informed and critical reflection on contemporary scholarship on, and current events surrounding, criminal justice, law, migration, and race and ethnicity through the analysis of migration and crime in Rome, Italy

## **PREREQUISITES AND EXPECTATIONS**

This is an upper division course in the fields of criminal justice and criminology for students with interests in global studies, history, peace and conflict studies, philosophy, political science, psychology, and/or sociology. It is also a Tier 2 Societal Knowledge course. The course therefore welcomes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of race, ethnicity, and criminal justice and assumes some prior familiarity with general social scientific concepts. Students are expected to attend class every day, be ready to interact with course material, and participate in all site visits. Students are also expected to produce high quality work that will structure class discussion.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Reading and Travel Journal**: In addition to mandatory discussion sessions and site visits, students will be required to keep a reading and travel journal. The journal will help students complete, comprehend, and assess the content of the readings as well as prepare them for discussion. Journals should also be used to take notes about, and reflect on, lessons learned during our various site visits throughout the term. Journal entries can be handwritten, can remain relatively informal, and should include a summary of the reading/visit, a personal reflection, and a clear connection to contemporary events, relevant topics, and our readings.
2. **Awareness Campaign**: The final assignment will be to cultivate an “Awareness Campaign” whereby the student creates some type of distributable piece that can summarize a migration-related issue with meaningful data and information to articulate a message for a broader audience. Projects are meant to be creative. A student can create an infographic, a website, write a theoretical pamphlet, or make a poster (online or hardcopy) on a topic related to migration and crime. The student may select any topic they are passionate about and go into great depth by way of empirical research (including using unique resources in Rome). Your project is due on the Friday before the last week of class.
3. **Final Exam**: Students will be tested on all material in a cumulative final exam to be taken at the John Felice Rome Center during the final week of class.

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Journal Entries: 50%

Awareness Campaign: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

## GRADING

93-100: A

90-92: A-

87-89: B+

83-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

73-76: C

70-73: C-

67-69: D+

60-66: D

59 or lower: F

## POLICIES

- Attendance: In accordance with the John Felice Rome Center's (JFRC) mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy: Prompt attendance, preparation, and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student. Any lateness or leaving class early will impact the final course grade.

**Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course.** Absence due to sickness or injury must be corroborated by a doctor's note. Students late to class twice will be credited with one absence in accordance with the JFRC's Attendance Policy. **Three (3) absences will result in an automatic failure (F).** Travel does not constitute reason to miss class.

- Reading Journal: Journal entries are meant to help students synthesize the week's readings and prepare them for discussion, site visits, and exams. There are nine 9 sessions that students will have to write a journal entry for a grade with the entire journal being submitted for instructor evaluation after the final session of class (before the final exam).
- Awareness Campaign: This creative project is meant to help students articulate scholarly readings and theoretical/normative arguments in a meaningful way. It should be submitted in a timely manner. Your project will incur a one-third grade level (~3%) reduction per day late (i.e., a B+ assignment turned in a day late will receive a B).
- Final Exam: Students must take the final exam in class on the scheduled date and time unless discussed beforehand with the instructor. Special arrangements must be made with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) prior to the test date. Without a valid excuse students will receive an "F" for this exam. No make-up exam will otherwise be offered.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic honesty is an expression of an ethic of interpersonal justice, responsibility, and care, which demands that the pursuit of knowledge in the university community be carried out with sincerity and integrity. Academic dishonesty is characterized by the failure to apply this ethic, i.e., any action whereby faculty, student, or staff misrepresents the ownership of academic work submitted in their name, including work that has been produced by artificial intelligence (A.I.) software. A student's failure to practice academic honesty, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct, may result in the grade of 'F' for the assignment and referral to the Dean's Office.

## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS POLICY**

The only valid excuses for missing an exam or handing in an assignment late are serious illnesses and other relevant emergencies. If you are either ill or have an emergency, you must both 1) notify me of your situation in a timely manner and 2) provide appropriate documentation. When I say "timely manner" I am just referring to before the class you will miss – the sooner the better. In virtually all cases I expect you to contact me before the absence or missed assignment.

In all situations, the JFRC requires documentation of your reason for missing an assignment or exam. This requirement extends to situations where there is a death in the family. If a situation is sensitive and you would prefer not to discuss it with me directly you can provide documentation to your academic advisor, who will then contact me, or contact the Dean of Students Office. I strongly encourage you to also discuss events like this with the JFRC and/or the Dean of Students as they presumably have consequences for all your classes and your summer experience in Rome.

## **SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY**

The syllabus is subject to change, but this will always be with advanced notice. The present syllabus is meant as a guide for the term and will be subject to changes due to unavoidable time constraints or extenuating circumstances. Students will be notified of all changes in class or through email.

## **ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the JFRC before or during the first week of classes.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

No textbook was assigned for this course. The required readings will be made available on Sakai, under the "Resources" tab, in the order they appear in the course topics and reading schedule below.

## **COURSE TOPICS, REQUIRED READINGS, AND SITE VISITS:**

### **Week 1. Italy's Historical Experience with Migration (Roman Empire to the Present)**

**Day 1:** Introductions and Syllabus Overview

Tacoma, Laurens E. 2016. *Moving Romans: Migration to Rome in the Principate*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chs. 1-2.

**Day 2:** Tacoma, Laurens E. 2016. *Moving Romans: Migration to Rome in the Principate*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 3.

Site Visit: Guided tour of Colosseum, Palatine Hill, & Roman Forum (Birthplace of Rome) (meet during class time)

### **Week 2. Migration-Crime Nexus in Comparative Perspective**

**Day 1:** Shelley, Louise. 2014. "The Globalization of Crime." In Mangai Natarajan, ed. *International Crime and Justice*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 3-10.

Belli, Roberta, Joshua D. Freilich, and Graeme R. Newman. 2014. "Migration and Crime." In Mangai Natarajan, ed. *International Crime and Justice*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 19-25.

Ekman, Mattias. 2022. "The Great Replacement: Strategic Mainstreaming of Far-Right Conspiracy Claims." *Convergence* 28(4): 1127-1143.

**Day 2:** The Holocaust Education & Archive Research Team. N.d. "The Destruction of the Jews of Italy." Holocaust Research Project.

Site Visit: Guided history and food tour of Rome's Jewish Quarter (meet during class time)

### **Week 3. Intersection of Conflict, Crime, and Modern Migration in Italy**

**Day 1:** Schumacher, Michael J. 2021. "Critical Junctures in Terrorism Studies: The Arab Spring and the New Twenty-First Century Security Environment." *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 14(4): 470-473.

Albahari, Maurizio. 2016. *Crimes of Peace: Mediterranean Migrations at the World's Deadliest Border*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

**Day 2:** Alagna, Federico. 2024. "The Continuation of Criminalization by Other Means: The Role of Judicial Agency in the Italian Policing of Humanitarian Assistance at Sea." *Mediterranean Politics* 29(2): 235-259.

Site Visit: Jesuit Refugee Center (meet during class time)

**Week 4. Intersection of Race, Exploitation, and Organized Crime in Italy**

**Day 1:** Fontana, Iole. 2020. "Migration Crisis, Organised Crime and Domestic Politics in Italy: Unfolding the Interplay." *South European Society and Politics* 25(1): 49-74.

**Day 2:** Documentary: Al-Jazeera. 2020. "Italy's Sikh Slaves." Watch in Class.

Site Visit: No site visits this week. Complete your final projects and prepare for your final exams at the JFRC

\*\*\*Awareness Campaign Project DUE at 11:55pm, Friday, June 20, 2025\*\*\*

**Week 5. Italian Responses to Modern Migration and Crime**

**Day 1:** Napolitano, Vaentina. 2019. *Migrant Hearts & the Atlantic Return: Transnationalism and the Roman Catholic Church*. New York: Fordham University Press.

**Day 2:** Final Exam