The course is a comparative study of cinematic representations of the Mafia in Hollywood and Italian cinema. Beginning with an historical and sociological analysis of the development of the Mafia “system” in America and in Italy, students will consider how the intrinsic differences affected filmmakers’ aesthetic interpretations of the Mafia in the two countries. The course will trace the origins of the gangster film in Hollywood and its re-emergence in the post-war period, and it will focus on the political cinema of Italy’s Francesco Rosi before moving on to explore representations of the Mafia in contemporary Italian and American cinema.