

Crime: Practices and Representations

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Pablo Piccato
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CPLS G4180.001
W 11:00A-12:50P
IAB 802

This seminar is intended to introduce students to the study of crime from two perspectives: historical and cultural. On the one hand, the seminar will read introductory and representative texts on the history of crime, particularly in Europe and the Americas. Among the themes to be discussed are: the impact of urbanization and cultural change on historical patterns of crime; the role of transgression and punishment in the construction of collective identities; the everyday relationship of urban populations with the law, the police, and the judiciary, and the gendered meanings of violence. On the other hand, the seminar will work with cultural representations of crime. Movies and literature will be used to understand the themes, genres and explanations that characterize popular understandings of crime. These cultural products will be set in a dialogue with our historical knowledge of criminal practices on the premise that representations and practices of crime are mutually constitutive, although in ways that are specific of different societies.

The course will conclude with a brief research project based on primary sources and the analysis of a relevant movie or work of fiction. Students will have the opportunity to examine criminal records at the New York City archives or other primary sources, such as journalistic and personal narratives, and published judicial reports. The final paper will analyze one case using the analytical tools and methodological examples discussed during the semester.

Grading will be based on:

1. Two- to three-hundred-word responses to each week's readings. These will be posted in the Courseworks page before noon the day of class.
2. Brief oral presentation on weekly readings.
3. One-page report on sources about crime and punishment. Due October 15.
4. Final paper. Ten pages.
5. Class participation and attendance.

Required bibliography:

- Allio, Rene. "Moi, Paul Riviere." 1976.
Anonymous, Ballad of Gregorio Cortez.
Borges, Jorge Luis, and Adolfo Bioy Casares. *Chronicles of Bustos Domecq*. 1st ed. New York: Dutton, 1976.
Butler, Jeremy G. "Miami Vice: The Legacy of Film Noir." *Journal of Popular Film and Television*. (Washington, D.C.), Fall, 1985.
Chandler, Raymond. *The Big Sleep*. New York: Random House, 1992.
Chandler, Raymond. "The Simple Art of Murder" (1950) in *The Simple Art of Murder*. New York, Vintage Books, 1988. (Available at <http://www.en.utexas.edu/amlit/amlitprivate/scans/chandlerart.html>.)
Chesterton, G. K.. *The Annotated Innocence of Father Brown : The Innocence of Father Brown*. Oxford [Oxfordshire] ; New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.
Cocaine Cowboys 1 (2006) and 2 (*Hustlin' with the Godmother*, 2008).
Coppola, Francis Ford. "The Godfather." 1972.
Curtiz, Michael, dir. "Angels with dirty faces." 1938.
De Palma, Brian. *Scarface* (1983).
Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. New York: Modern Library, 2001. (Electronic edition available through ebrary, at <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/columbia/Top?id=2001768&layout=document>.)

- Foucault, Michel, ed. *I, Pierre Riviere, Having Slaughtered My Mother, My Sister, and My Brother: A Case of Parricide in the 19th Century*. 1st American ed. ed. New York: Pantheon Books, 1975.
- Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage, 1979.
- Fregoso, Rosalinda. "From Il(l)egal to Legal Subject: Border Construction and Re-construction," In *The Bronze Screen* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993): 65-92. (Electronic version in <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/columbia/Top?id=10151065&layout=document>.)
- Garland, David. "Of Crimes and Criminals: The Development of Criminology in Britain." In *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, Mike Maguire, Rod Morgan and Robert Reiner, eds. New York: Clarendon Press, 1994, 17-68.
- Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Judge and the Historian: Marginal Notes on a Late-Twentieth-Century Miscarriage of Justice*. Translated by Antony Shugaar. London: Verso, 1999.
- Gootenberg, Paul, ed. *Cocaine : Global Histories*. London ; New York: Routledge, 1999. (Available in Ebrary.)
- Grodal, Torben Kragh. "Potency of Melancholia: Miami Vice and the Postmodern Fading of Symbolic Action." *The Dolphin: Publications of the English Department*, University of Aarhus (Aarhus, Denmark), 1989.
- Haag, Pamela. "The 'Ill-Use of a Wife:' Patterns of Working-Class Violence in Domestic and Public New York City, 1860-1880." *Journal of Social History* 25 (3):447-477. 1992.
- Inciardi, James A., and Juliet L. Dee. "From the Keystone Cops to Miami Vice: Images of Policing in American Popular Culture." *Journal of Popular Culture* (Bowling Green, Ohio), Fall 1987.
- Johnson, Eric A. *Urbanization and Crime: Germany 1871-1914*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Johnson, Eric A., and Eric H. Monkkonen. *The Civilization of Crime: Violence in Town and Country since the Middle Ages*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1996.
- King, Scott Benjamin. "Sonny's Virtues: The Gender Negotiations of Miami Vice." *Screen* (Glasgow, Scotland.), Autumn 1990.
- Kurosawa, Akira. "Rashomon." 1950.
- Lang, Fritz, dir. "M." 1931.
- Martinez, Ray. *Latino Homicide: Immigration, Violence, and Community* (Routledge; 2002). *Miami Vice* (TV).
- Monkkonen, Eric H. *Murder in New York City*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 2001. (Available in Ebrary.)
- Muir, Edward, and Guido Ruggiero. *History from crime, Selections from Quaderni storici*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.
- Paredes, Américo. *With His Pistol In His Hand* (1958).
- Piccato, Pablo. "El Chalequero, or 'the Mexican Jack the Ripper': The Meanings of Sexual Violence in Turn-of-the-Century Mexico City." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 81 (3-4):623-651, 2001.
- Piccato, Pablo. *City of Suspects: Crime in Mexico City, 1900-1931*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2001.
- Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Annotated Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1981. (An electronic edition, including "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" through ebrary in <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/columbia/Top?adv.x=true&c=all&channelName=columbia&cpge=1&d=all&f00=text&f01=author&frm=adv.x&hitsPerPage=20&id=10066618&l=all&layout=document&p00=allan+poe&p01=Poe%2C+Edgar+Allan&sglayout=default&sortBy=score&sortOrder=desc>.)
- Romero, Mary. "State Violence and the Social and Legal Construction of Latino Criminality: From El Bandido to Gang Member," 78 *Denv. L. Rev.* 1081 (2001)
- Ross, Andrew. "Masculinity and Miami Vice: Selling In." *The Oxford Literary Review* (Oxford), 1986.
- Ruggiero, Kristin. *Modernity in the Flesh: Medicine, Law, and Society in Turn-of-the-Century Argentina*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2004.
- Rutsky, R. L. "Visible Sins, Vicarious Pleasures: Style and Vice in Miami Vice." *SubStance: A Review of Theory and Literary Criticism* (Santa Barbara, California), 1988.
- Sabetti, Filippo. *Village Politics and the Mafia in Sicily*. Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002.
- Salvatore, Ricardo Donato, Carlos Aguirre, and G. M. Joseph. *Crime and Punishment in Latin America: Law and Society since Late Colonial Times*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001.
- Saviano, Roberto. *Gomorra*; Trans. By Virginia Jewiss. New York: FARRAR, 2007.
- Schwichtenberg, Cathy. "Sensual Surfaces and Stylistic Excess: The Pleasure and Politics of Miami Vice." *Journal of Communication Inquiry* (Iowa City, Iowa), Fall 1986.
- Scorsese, Martin, dir. "Goodfellas." 1990.

- Seewi, Nurit. *Miami Vice: Cashing in on Contemporary Culture?: Towards an Analysis of a U.S. Television Series Broadcast in the Federal Republic of Germany*. Heidelberg, Germany: Winter, 1990.
- Soderbergh, Steven, dir. "Traffic." 2000.
- Spierenberg, Pieter, ed. *Men and Violence: Gender, Honor, and Rituals in Modern Europe and America*. Columbus: Ohio University Press, 1998.
- Walkowitz, Judith. *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.
- Wilder, Billy, dir. "Double indemnity." 1944.
- Young, Robert. *Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* (1982), film.

Additional bibliography:

- Aguirre, Carlos, and Robert Buffington. *Reconstructing criminality in Latin America*. Wilmington, Del: Scholarly Resources, 2000.
- Caulfield, Sueann. "Getting into Trouble: Dishonest Women, Modern Girls, and Women-Men in the Conceptual Language of Vida Policial, 1925-1927." *Signs* 19 (1):146-76. 1993.
- . *In Defense of Honor: Sexual Morality, Modernity, and Nation in Early-Twentieth-Century Brazil*. Durham <N.C.>: Duke University Press, 2000.
- Garland, David. *Punishment and Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory*. Oxford New York: Clarendon Press ; Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Gay, Peter. *The Cultivation of Hatred: The Bourgeois Experience. Victoria to Freud*. Nueva York: Norton, 1993.
- Ginzburg, Carlo. *The cheese and the worms : the cosmos of a sixteenth-century miller*. New York, N.Y.: Penguin Books, 1982.
- Hobsbawm, E. J. *Bandits*. London,: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1969.
- Ignatieff, Michael. *A Just Measure of Pain: The Penitentiary in the Industrial Revolution*. London: Penguin, 1978.
- Johnson, Lyman L., and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, eds. *The Faces of Honor, Sex, Shame, and Violence in Colonial Latin America*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998.
- Zehr, Howard. *Crime and the Development of Modern Society. Patterns of Criminality in Nineteenth Century Germany and France*. London: Croom Helm, 1976.

Schedule:

1. September 3	Introduction	Poe, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"; "A Case of Identity," in Doyle, <i>The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes</i> .
2. September 10	Murder in the city	Monkkonen, <i>Murder in New York City</i> ; Curtiz, "Angels with dirty faces."
3. September 17	Transgression, gender and culture	Walkowitz, <i>City of Dreadful Delight</i> , chaps. 1, 2 and 7. Lang, "M."
4. September 24	Crime, urban society	Piccato, <i>City of Suspects</i> ; Buñuel, "Los olvidados"
5. October 1	Crime and identities	Simon, <i>Songs From the Capeman</i> ; Romero, "State Violence"; Martinez, "Latino Homicide" (Selections); News coverage of the period, <i>New York Daily News</i> , May 2, 1955.
6. October 8	Crime in the archives	Ginzburg, <i>The Judge and the Historian</i> ; Kurosawa, "Rashomon." Research on primary sources.
7. October 15	Gender and violence	Spierenburg, <i>Men and Violence</i> , chaps. 4, 2, 3, 4, 6.; Haag, "The 'Ill-Use of a Wife'"; Piccato, "El Chalequero".
8. October 22	Bandits, borders	Young, "Ballad of Gregorio Gortez"; Paredes, <i>With his pistol</i> (Seleccions); Fregoso, "From Il(l)egal to Legal"; Anonymous, "Ballad of Gregorio Cortez"
9. October 29	The noir genre	Wilder, "Double indemnity"; Chandler, <i>The Big Sleep</i> ; Chandler, "The Simple Art of Murder." Discussion of research projects.
10. November 5	Mafia: honor, family, and transnational links	Sabetti, <i>Village Politics</i> ; Coppola, "The Godfather."
11. November 12	Political economies of contemporary crime	Scorsese, "Goodfellas"; Saviano, <i>Gomorra</i> .
12. November 19	Drugs and transnational exchanges	Gootenberg, <i>Cocaine</i> , chapters 1, 3, 8 and 9; Soderbergh, "Traffic."
13. November 26	Drugs, immigration	De Palma, <i>Scarface</i> ; <i>Miami Vice</i> (TV); Butler, Jeremy G. "Miami Vice";
14. December 3	Crime in front of the disciplines	Foucault, <i>I, Pierre Riviere</i> ; Allio, "Moi, Paul Riviere."
15. December 19		Final paper due