

# **The Godfather films and Game Theory: Art of Hard Choices by Mafiosi**

**Thursday, March 8**

**Chair: Ken Pedini**

This lecture will first provide historical background by sketching the ambiguous nature of Cosa Nostra (a mixture of private protection and extortion), its remarkable transplantation from traditional agrarian Sicily to modern urban America, and its resourceful adaptation to each successive period in American history, from the Great Migration to the Great Depression. Then it will focus on the Godfather film's stylized, dramatic portrayal of Mafiosi wrestling with three fateful choices they must make at the crucial turning point in the mafia's history in the wake of WWII.

John Alcorn received his PhD in History from Columbia University. At Trinity College he is Principal Lecturer in Italian Studies where teaches courses on Italian history, society, and culture. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Palermo and University of Messina.

Kensington Country Club  
Price: \$39

Doors open 11:00;  
Lecture 11:30 followed by lunch