



The CEU Summer University announces the course

RELIGION AND REALISM IN POLITICAL THOUGHT - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

JULY 15 – JULY 26, 2013 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

In co-operation with the Department of Political Science, Duke University, USA, and the Institute of Political Science, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will examine the relationship between religion and political realism as a genuine constellation within Western political thought and philosophy.

Focusing on most recent international debates as well as on historical perspectives, the course will particularly explore the connections of religious ideas with typically realist positions – such as the autonomy of politics, the emphasis on power and political leadership, the necessity to restrain human desires and passions, the disbelief in human perfectibility and the idea of historical progress, the observance of the limits of politics. This involves, on the one hand, the question of the religious origins of realism, for instance in the Augustinian doctrine of original sin, and, on the other hand, the question of the specifically "secular" or even anti-religious character of realist thought.

Accordingly, the course will deal with religious and non-religious justifications of (state) power and authority as well as with the realist critique of religiously inspired political enthusiasm and utopianism. Against this background, the general realist critique of the political implications of Christianity, the question of the significance of neo-pagan references both within the history as well as within most recent reformulations of Western political realism will be discussed.

The course invites applications from doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers, and junior faculty working in the fields of political theory, political philosophy, legal theory, the history of political and religious thought and other areas closely related to the theme of the course.



Central European University's summer school (CEU SUN), established in 1996, is a program in English for graduate students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals. It offers high-level, research-oriented, interdisciplinary academic courses as well as workshops on policy issues for professional development, taught by internationally renowned scholars and policy experts (including CEU faculty). Application from all over the world is encouraged. Financial aid is available.

Application deadline: February 15, 2013

For academic information please visit the course web site:

<http://summer.ceu.hu/religion-2013>

Apply here:

<https://apply.embark.com/NonDegree/CEU/13/>

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