



The CEU Summer University announces the course
*RELIGION AND POLITICS: THE PRESENCE OF SACRED AND
SECULAR TRADITIONS IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST*

JULY 14 – 25, 2008, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Course Directors:

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

In recent years there has been an increasing interest in the relationship between religion and politics. Not only terrorist attacks and fundamentalist movements, but also the rhetoric of a number of democratic leaders in Europe and the Middle East has raised doubts about the solely secular character of modern politics. However, the new public and academic interest in the religio-political complex goes along with an often almost complete ignorance of inherent long-term traditions involved in religious discourse. Moreover, the re-emerging religious dimension of politics that social scientists observe in our days can only be understood properly if one considers the persistence of religious symbolization in secular movements, as, for example, the messianic elements in 19th and 20th century ideologies like communism and nationalism. On the other hand, secularization can by no means be conceived as a purely modern development, since secular trends can be observed throughout the intellectual history of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In other words, there is a certain continuity of religious and secular modes of thought which permeate the intellectual development of European and Middle Eastern societies.

Therefore the course has two general aims: Creating an awareness of

- *the presence of religious traditions in the political disposition of European and Middle Eastern societies*
- *the potentials of secularization and modernization in the pre-modern Jewish, Christian and Islamic political thought.*

By a long-term and comparative perspective on the religio-political traditions of Europe and the Middle East the course seeks to contribute to a fuller understanding of one of the most vexing problems of present-day European and Middle Eastern societies: the clash of religious and secular interpretations of political order. The readings range from the earliest reflections on the relationship between religion and politics in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages to modern documents of religio-political theory.



The Summer University was established in 1996 and is aiming to involve a high-level international faculty (including CEU faculty), and excellent advanced doctoral students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals as participants. While application from all over the world is encouraged, continued priority is given to applicants from Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and countries experiencing emerging democracies worldwide. Applicants from these countries, when admitted on merit, will be eligible for scholarship, while those from developed countries will usually be expected to pay fees.

CEU Summer University

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Apply online: *https://online.ceu.hu/osun*

Skype: *ceu-sun*

Application deadline: February 14, 2008 for scholarship places and May 30 for fee-paying places
For further academic information on the course and on eligibility criteria and funding options please visit the
course web site on

<http://www.sun.ceu.hu>



Non-discrimination policy statement

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