



*Seminar Winter/Spring 2013
Second Term 2012-2013*

Culture and Politics/Politics of Identity

*Olivier Roy
Course Description*

Tuesdays 13:00-15:00, Badia Seminar Room 2

Registration with Maureen Lechleitner (Maureen.Lechleitner@EUI.eu)

The «theologico-political».

It seems common sense to say that religions have shaped specific political cultures. But what does this mean? The sacralisation of the state through the theory of the Absolute Monarch, the “two-worlds” theory (Church and State) are usually seen as a Christian legacy. Millenarist revolutions, from Marxism to the Iranian Islamic revolution, are often referred to a religious tradition. The debate on secularisation, human rights and democracy stresses the specificity of Western Christianity, and more specifically the role of Protestantism. But how to interpret the correlation, if there is one? The seminar will study how religion may produce a political culture that could become secular and will question the universalization of such models. In particular we will discuss the two “culturalist” schools of thought: the essentialist conception of the West based on a Christian culture and identity, and the “post-colonial” criticism of the universality of the Western political model?

Courses:

- Political-theology: defining the scope of the concept.
- the Pope versus the Emperor: how the conflict shaped Western conception of the political.
- Wars of religion and the Westphalian State: in what sense can we speak of a modern state?
- Secularisation, secularism and post secularism: did Christianity turn against itself?
- Is Europe Christian? identity versus faith: interpreting the populist movements.
- Are Human Rights universal or a Western-Christian construction?
- Post colonial and cultural studies: is it enough to “deconstruct” the Western model? (two courses)
- Religion and politics in a global world.