The CEU Summer University Religion and Realism in Political Thought course cordially invites you to a PUBLIC LECTURE on

Machiavelli's Modernity and the Christian Tradition

by

Michael Gillespie, Duke University, USA

Date and time: 4:30-6:00 pm, Friday, July 19
Location: Nador street 13, #001

Viewing Machiavelli against the background of the Italian Christian tradition exemplified by Dante, Michael Gillespie shows that Machiavelli’s thought at least in respect to its ends remains within the Christian tradition that sees the public good as the ultimate end of politics. The paper suggests that the commonplace view of Machiavelli as anti-Christian is mistaken, arguing that the need for the Prince sometimes not to be good is essential in Machiavelli’s view in order to secure the greater good of one’s neighbors, subjects, and fellow citizens. The paper ends with the suggestion that Machiavelli’s thought falls within the orbit of a militant Christian humanism of the sort portrayed by Albrecht Dürer and other Renaissance artists.

Michael Gillespie is Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, works in political philosophy, with particular emphasis on modern continental theory and the history of political philosophy. He is the author of Hegel, Heidegger and the Ground of History, Nihilism before Nietzsche, and The Theological Origins of Modernity. He is also co-editor of Nietzsche's New Seas: Explorations in Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Politics, Ratifying the Constitution, and Homo Politicus, Homo Economicus. He has published articles on Montaigne, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Existentialism, and various topics in American political thought and public philosophy, as well as on the relation of religion and politics. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Templeton Foundation, the Liberty Fund, the Jack Miller Foundation, the Smith Foundation, and the Earhart Foundation. He is the Director of the Gerst Program in Political, Economic, and Humanistic Studies and the Duke Program in American Values and Institutions. His research interests include Continental Political Philosophy, Humanism, Religion and Polities, German Idealism, Existentialism, and American Political Thought.