

# History of Modern Western Political Thought

Course Instructor:

**Dr. Diego LAZZARICH**

Professor | University of Naples "L'Orientale"

His main research themes are: war in history of Modern political thought; the history of the concept of gratitude and its relation with Western political theories from ancient to modern times, in a global perspective. On these themes he has published several academic articles and three books: *Guerra e pensiero politico. Percorsi novecenteschi* 2008; *Stato moderno e diritto delle genti. Vattel tra politica e guerra*, 2016; *Gratitudine politica I: dall'età classica al Medioevo*, 2019 (part 1 of his research on political gratitude).



Day 1 | Introduction to History of Political Thought and Course Themes

Day 2 | Gratitude as Political Paradigm in Ancient Greece and Rome

Day 3 | Gratitude as Political Paradigm in the Middle Ages

Day 4 | Favours and Gratitude in Machiavelli's Political Thought

Day 5 | From Gratitude to Social Contract Theory

## IN PERSON

Venue: Room B301 (3F)

Graduate School of Intercultural Studies,  
Kobe University

Language: English

POLITICS  
STATO  
MODERNO  
E DIRITTO  
DELLE GENTI  
DIEGO LAZZARICH  
VATTEL  
TRA POLITICA  
E GUERRA  
Seconda edizione rivista e ampliata

This course examines fundamental theoretical developments in the history of Western political thought, with particular emphasis on the political ideas that marked the emergence of the modern age. The course will analyze the key theoretical transitions that led to the superseding of the premodern political paradigm, which was grounded in the concept of obligation based on gratitude, and the establishment of the modern political paradigm, founded upon social contract theory.

The course will further explore the principal theoretical challenges within modern political thought that connect concepts of domestic order, international order, and war. Throughout the semester, topics will be addressed through a methodological approach combining History of Political Thought and Political Theory, enabling students to understand both the historical development and the theoretical implications of these foundational ideas.

Organizer: Global Network Program

Contact person: Kexin Wang (GNP Project Assistant Professor)  
kexin@people.kobe-u.ac.jp