

In a historical progression, through the study of « great writers » (Grotius, Hobbes, Locke, Pufendorf, Montesquieu, Locke, Hume, Smith, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel ...), the course will offer to understand the formation of the modern legal thought since the Renaissance. In particular, we will focus on how the anthropological revolution in XV^e/XVI^e, the emergence of the individual dignity, the recognition of the value of the subject, have induced a secularization of legal way of thinking and promote the value of human rights. To a large extent, the course will explore the historical origins and foundations of this philosophical and legal universe called “human rights”.

The inspiration for this course draws heavily in reading the original and complex work of Marcel Gauchet.