

European Studies Winter School Munich - Vienna

The European Union Challenges, Crises and Solution Approaches

Tentative Schedule

January 5 - 23, 2026
www.european-study.eu



In cooperation with:



**Doctoral School
of Political Science,
Public Policy, and
International Relations**

CENTRAL
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY



Key dates

EU Studies Sessions

Course:	60 lessons (45 minutes)
Academic program:	Munich 05 - 16 January 2026 Vienna 19 - 23 January 2026
Arrival Munich:	04. January Transfer to Vienna Jan 17, 2026
Departure Vienna:	24. January 2026

German Language Classes:

Students offered 30 contact hours of German Language classes (In-class / Online)

German Language classes for Beginners, 2 times a week

Online: December 2 - 22, 2026, from 8.00 to 9.30 am (Munich time)

In-Class: January 5 - 16, 2026, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm (Munich time)

First day of class (EU and German) in Munich will take place at:

tba

EU Sessions will take place at:

tba

German Class on-site sessions will take place at:

tba

Senior Lecturer



Radu-Mihai Triculescu

LMU Munich

Radu-Mihai Triculescu is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Chair of Political Systems and European Integration at LMU Munich, working on the ERC Advanced Grant SYNCPOL - Synchronized Politics: Multiple Times and Political Power. He studied International Affairs and Political Science at Florida State University, and earned an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in International Migration and Social Cohesion from the University of Amsterdam, Deusto University, and University of Osnabruck.

In 2021, Radu earned his PhD at the University of Twente in the Netherlands, where he researched the multi-level implementation of asylum policies in the European Union. Through his work, he analyzed how bureaucracies and administrative agencies in EU Member States interpret and implement the rules and norms of the Common European Asylum System.

Radu-Mihai Triculescu's research attempts to understand how national differences impact policy harmonization across different jurisdictions. Aside from academia, he has also spent time working as an Associate Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute – Europe, where he worked on projects relating to return and reintegration, asylum, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant inclusion.

Senior Lecturer



Sophia C.E. Mård

Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations

Sophia C.E. Mård is a PhD candidate at the Doctoral School of Political Science at Central European University. With advanced degrees from VU Amsterdam and King's College London, she brings a rich interdisciplinary background - of law and of politics - and regional expertise spanning European and Russian studies. Her research explores the shifting landscape of European and international security, with a particular focus on how emerging technologies are reshaping legal and political norms. She is currently involved in multiple research and consultancy projects focused on democracy, human rights, and political development in Europe.

Schedule

Date		
Sun, 4	Arrival	
Mon, 5	Program introduction	
10:30 – 13:00	<p>We will use this session to introduce ourselves, to clarify the course requirements and to have a closer look at the schedule. Moreover, students will be introduced to the teaching concept and basic literature of the program.</p> <p>From the European Community (EC) to European Union (EU) The EU's institutional structure and the Lisbon Treaty</p> <p>This session will assess the development of the European integration process from the 1950s to the Treaty of Maastricht (1993) and the subsequent reform stages. Since 2009 the Treaty of Lisbon provides the legal framework for the institutional structure and the policies of the EU. We will trace the development of European institutions, as well as the decision-making processes within and among them. In this session we will analyse the systemic characteristics and the institutional nature of the EU.</p> <p>4:00 p.m.: City Tour by bus</p>	
Tue, 6	Public Holiday	
Wed, 6	<p>Morning: Europeanization</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30 Based on the preceding session, we will discuss in how far the European integration impacted on national political systems.</p> <p>14:00 – 15:00 Moreover, we will discuss in how far European measures have led to converging rules and policies among the EU member states.</p>	<p>Afternoon: Methodology and Academic Writing</p> <p>In this session, we will discuss possible topics for the essays and look at the requirements for academic work and research methods. We will also address the requirements for the final essay.</p>
Thu, 7	<p>Political culture and European Identity</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30 Whereas the preceding session looked at European integration from an institutional perspective, this session will contextualize it in terms of political culture and identity. In how far do national identities converge and can a 'European identity' be observed? We will look at theories that help to explain identity politics and data dealing with identity issues in Europe.</p>	
Fri, 8	<p>Public Opinion and the Rise of Euroscepticism</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30 Populism has become a constant feature of political systems. Established governance structures are more often challenged by populist movements or parties. Not least since the Eurozone and migration crises, populist parties have gained in importance within EU member states as well as in the European Parliament. What are the characteristics of populism and populist parties within the EU? In how far do skepticism towards or even a rejection of European integration, in combination with nationalism, threaten established governance mechanisms? To understand this phenomenon, we will theorize and map corresponding political cleavages in the EU.</p>	
Sat, 9		
Sun, 10		

Date	
Mon, 12	EU as a global actor?
09:00 – 12:30	<p>Is the EU a global actor, what kind of global actor? The EU plays a significant role in the world and the global order. Who can represent the EU to the outside? Moreover, it is important to analyse the EU's impacts on the changes in the current global order.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multilateralism within and outside the EU 2. The EU and other international organisations
Tue, 13	Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)
09:00 – 12:30	<p>In the 1970s, the EC Member States started to coordinate national foreign policies in the framework of European Political Cooperation (EPC). Since the 1990s the development of the CFSP and in further consequence the CSDP has become one of the main features of the European integration process. The EU is in an ongoing process of defining and developing a specific form of actorness in international relations. In this session we will discuss the role of states, sovereignty, forms of power, security and defense cooperation in an EU as well as in an international relations context.</p>
Wed, 14	Looking West: Transatlantic relations and EU-NATO relations
09:00 – 12:30	<p>After the end of the Cold War and especially due to establishment of the CFSP and CSDP, the EU's relations with the US as well as NATO experienced important changes. In this session the US and NATO dimension will be discussed as well as the prospects and challenges for transatlantic relationships in the future.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU-US 2. EU-NATO
Thu, 15	Looking far East: European-Asia relations
09:00 – 12:30	<p>Europe and Asia are on the "Eurasia" continent and the interactions are historical rooted. This session focus on the historical connections and the social constructions which establish the current world order. In this session, the EU-China relations and the comparison between EU and ASEAN will be discussed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eurasia connections 2. EU-China relations 3. EU-ASEAN
Fri, 16	The dark side and the challenges to the EU
09:00 – 12:30	<p>Although the EU is a project started in the 20th century, we still can identify those historical legacies in the current EU politics and everyday life; more importantly, the dark side of the history within the EU should be noticed, namely the colonial history. Do the colonial legacies still play a role in the current EU? How does the EU locate itself in a global context, the context of East-West and/or North-South? Moreover, the gap between what the EU is saying and what the EU is doing should be identified. This session will focus more on the normative issues of the EU.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical legacies in the European integration and the establishment of the EU 2. The EU's interaction with the others from a normative perspective 3. What the EU should be and how the EU should do within and outside the Union
Sat, 17	Transfer to Vienna
Sun, 18	

Date	
Mon, 19	A Europe of the regions?
09:00 – 12:30	In some EU member states political autonomy and cultural identity are linked to a specific region. On the supranational level this is considered with the concept of a 'Europe of the Regions' as well as the principle of subsidiarity. This session will discuss the differences and similarities of regions as well as their impact on the governance of European policies.
Tue, 20	The Political Economy of European Integration: The Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
09:00 – 12:30	This session will focus on two of the major economic projects of European integration: the creation of the Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union. Both are central elements of the EU's governance architecture and have a tremendous impact on economic activities within the Union and beyond. The Single Market is based on the four freedoms, i.e. the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital. The Single Market has a deep impact on member states' economic development and economic interdependence. The Economic and Monetary Union became central for the coordination of economic and fiscal policies and a common currency.
Wed, 21	Migration and asylum policy: refugee crisis
09:00 – 12:30	One of the most demanding challenges for the EU has been the conceptualization and management of a migration policy. This session explores the main obstacles and chances of a European approach towards a migration and asylum concept in light of the 2015 migration crisis.
Thu, 22	The EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ)
09:00 – 12:30	The EU's AFSJ covers activities ranging from external border management to judicial and police cooperation. We will trace the development of this policy area with a special emphasis on the EU's counter terrorism strategy. This will be linked to the broader context of an EU Security Strategy.
Fri, 23	Presentation of students' essay topics
09:00 – 12:30	Farewell Event
Sa, 24	Departure from Vienna