

European Studies Munich and Vienna

The EU's Quest for Competitiveness:
Technology, Geoeconomics and International
Power Dynamics

Tentative SCHEDULE

August 4 – 28, 2026

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In cooperation with:



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



Key dates

EU Studies Sessions

Arrival:	3 August
EU Studies sessions:	4 – 28 August
Vienna Trip:	20 – 23 August
Departure:	29 August

Application process

Please inform yourself whether your home university requires a nomination process before you may apply for our program.

Please apply via our online registration tool on the website:

www.european-study.eu

Please make sure to fill out the online registration form and to submit your CV as well as motivation letter. In case you are eligible for waivers, please submit your student ID.

Registration Deadlines:

Early Bird: 1 March 2026

Regular: 1 May 2026

Munich

Session will take place at:

Geschwister-Scholl-Institute,
Oettingenstraße 67
80538 München
Germany

Vienna

Session will take place at:

Central European University Vienna
Quellenstraße 51,
1100 Wien
Österreich

General course content

The course is designed to introduce the political and institutional landscape of the European Union. We will explore the EU's governance structure, focusing on the challenges it faces and the innovations that have emerged in response.

We will begin by examining the history and evolution of the EU, from its origins as the European Coal and Steel Community to its current form as a 27-member union. We will then delve into the various institutions and decision-making processes that make up the EU, including the European Commission, European Parliament, and Council of the European Union. We will also explore some of the key challenges facing the EU, including issues of democratic legitimacy, migration and security, and economic governance. We will examine how these challenges have led to innovations in EU governance, such as the creation of new institutions like the European Stability Mechanism and the emergence of new policy areas like digital governance.

By the end of this course, students will have a solid understanding of EU governance, its challenges, and the innovations that are shaping its future.

Lecturer and Head of Program Munich



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 focuses on the governance of migration policy in the EU. 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.

Lecturer in Munich

Moritz Goldfuß

LMU Munich

Moritz Goldfuß graduated from Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich with degrees in Political Science, Law, and Sinology. He holds an MPhil in Political and Economic Sociology from the University of Cambridge and has also studied abroad at National Taiwan University and Hubei University of Technology.

He has worked at the Chair for Political Theory and at the Chair for International Relations at the Geschwister-Scholl Institute for Political Science of LMU, at the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) office in Beijing, China, and at Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in Albania, among others.



Julio Ramos Pires, LL.M.

Legal Researcher

Julio Ramos Pires graduated in Law from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (2020) and spent an Erasmus year at the University of Lisbon, specializing in Human Rights and Global Governance. He obtained his Master of Laws (LL.M.) at the University of Amsterdam with an Advanced Certificate in International Criminal Law at Columbia University (2021).

While at LMU, Julio specialized in European and International Public Law, Climate Law, and International Criminal Justice. He contributed to research and publications in European Criminal Law and International Criminal Law at the Chair for German, European, and International Criminal Law. During his time as a visiting scholar at Columbia University, he focused on the role of criminal law in the context of climate protection.

In 2022, Julio was part of the organizing team of the Munich Climate School, an interdisciplinary project awarded for teaching innovation. His academic interests particularly involve international law, human rights, global governance, and the intersection of environmental and legal issues.



Senior Lecturer in Vienna



Sophia C.E. Mård

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

Lecture Room Group A: tba / Lecture Room Group B: tba

Date	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 3	Arrival
Tue, 4	<p>Welcome Lecture by Prof. Dr. Klaus Goetz, LMU Munich, Chair of Political Systems and European Integration</p> <p>Program introduction and first session: From the European Community (EC) to European Union (EU) – The EU's institutional structure and the Lisbon Treaty</p> <p>This session introduces the course structure, requirements, schedule, teaching approach and key literature. It then provides an overview of European integration from the 1950s to the Treaty of Maastricht and subsequent reforms, with a focus on the Treaty of Lisbon as the current legal framework. The session analyses the development of EU institutions, decision-making processes, and the EU's systemic and institutional characteristics.</p> <p>City Tour by bus at 3 pm, starting at Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1</p>
Wed, 5	<p>Europeanization</p> <p>Based on the preceding session, we will discuss in how far the European integration impacted on national political systems. Moreover, we will discuss in how far European measures have led to converging rules and policies among the EU member states.</p>
Thu, 6	<p>Political culture and European Identity and Methodology and Academic Writing</p> <p>While previous sessions focused on the institutional dimension of European integration, this session contextualizes it through the lens of political culture and identity. Can we speak of a shared 'European identity'? We will explore theories of identity politics and examine empirical data on identity issues within Europe.</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>
Fri, 7	<p>The Political Economy of European Integration: The Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)</p> <p>This session focuses on two core economic projects of European integration: the Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). Both are central to the EU's governance architecture and significantly shape economic activity within and beyond the Union. The Single Market is based on the four freedoms and fosters economic development and interdependence among member states, while the EMU coordinates economic and fiscal policies and provides a common currency.</p>
Sat, 8	
Sun, 9	<p>Day Trip Castle Neuschwanstein</p> <p>Meeting point at 8 a.m. at Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1</p>

Date/ Time	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 10	<p>The EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ)</p> <p>A further key dimension of European integration is the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ), which encompasses policies ranging from border management and asylum to judicial and police cooperation. The focus here lies on the evolution of this policy field, with a particular emphasis on the EU's counter-terrorism strategies and their interplay with civil liberties. By considering major turning points in the AFSJ's development, we explore how the EU balances security concerns with its commitment to fundamental rights. This analysis is situated within the broader framework of the EU's internal and external security strategies.</p>
Tue, 11	<p>Migration and asylum policy</p> <p>Few policy areas have proven as politically and morally challenging for the EU as migration and asylum. This unit examines the evolution of a common European approach to these issues, highlighting both structural obstacles and opportunities for reform. Special attention is given to the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and the ongoing efforts to revise the Dublin system. We will consider the balance between solidarity and responsibility-sharing among Member States, as well as the EU's externalization strategies and their implications for human rights.</p>
Wed 12	<p>Political culture and European Identity</p> <p>While previous sessions focused on the institutional dimension of European integration, this session contextualizes it through the lens of political culture and identity. Can we speak of a shared 'European identity'? We will explore theories of identity politics and examine empirical data on identity issues within Europe.</p>
Thu, 13	<p>Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)</p> <p>Originating in the 1970s as European Political Cooperation, today's CFSP and CSDP have become central to the EU's external action. We trace how these frameworks have evolved, particularly since the 1990s, and how the EU strives to reconcile diverse national interests with collective foreign and security policy objectives. Themes include sovereignty, power, military cooperation, and the EU's positioning in the global arena – especially in response to current geopolitical shifts and crises.</p>
Fri, 14	<p>Library Day</p>
Sat, 15	
Sun, 16	<p>Day Trip Castle Neuschwanstein Meeting point at 8 am at Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1</p>

Date/ Time	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 17	Library Day Research for student presentations
Tue, 18	When Chips Trump Oil – Geoeconomics and Europe’s Vulnerabilities What happens when microchips become more strategic than oil barrels? This session dives into Europe’s exposure to global supply shocks, energy crises, and technological dependencies. With vivid case studies, students explore how innovation gaps and international rivalries shape Europe’s strengths and weaknesses—and what it would take to turn vulnerability into resilience.
Wed, 19	The Race for Tomorrow – Technology and Power Politics Today’s global power struggles play out not just on borders but in labs and data centers. This session confronts the competitive edge of AI, biotech, and quantum technologies and asks how Europe can position itself between American and Chinese superpowers. Through interactive debates, students imagine political strategies and alliances that might secure Europe’s place in the world’s new order.
Thu, 20	Departure to Vienna
Fri, 21	The Future of Global Cooperation and Multilateralism This block focuses on the evolving system of global governance in an era marked by strategic competition and fragmentation. It investigates various models of global polarity—unipolarity, bipolarity, multipolarity, and non-polarity—and how these shape multilateralism as practiced by the EU and international organizations. Through comparative study of different regional frameworks including ASEAN, students will critically assess the prospects for effective international cooperation, the role of international law, and conditions needed for stable and just multilateral order.
Sa, 22	Europe’s Normative Power – Human Rights and Climate Policy This session examines the EU’s ambition to shape global affairs through values-based policies rather than hard power. We will discuss how human rights are promoted through diplomacy, trade and multilateral instruments, and where credibility gaps emerge. Climate policy will be analysed as a new field of normative and strategic influence. With the Green Deal and global climate diplomacy, the EU presents itself as a transformative actor — yet must balance principles with interests. We ask: can human rights and climate action reinforce each other, and under what conditions can the EU act as a genuine normative power?
Sun, 23	Departure to Munich

Date/ Time	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 24	Library Day Preparing for student presentations
Tue, 25	Europe between Blocs and History This block examines Europe's geopolitical position shaped by the legacy of the Cold War and ongoing power rivalries. It explores the EU's relationships with key partners like the US, NATO, China, and ASEAN, emphasizing the historical contexts that still influence current strategies. Students will analyze how Europe's past—especially its colonial history—intersects with contemporary challenges, highlighting the tensions between political ideals and practical realities in global power dynamics.
Wed, 26	Public Opinion, Populism and the Challenge to European Integration This session explores how shifting public attitudes have reshaped EU politics in recent years. Populist and Eurosceptic movements have gained influence across member states as well as in the European Parliament, often mobilising fears around migration, economic inequality and loss of sovereignty. We will discuss the main characteristics of populist parties in the EU, map emerging political cleavages, and examine how growing skepticism towards integration challenges established governance mechanisms. Finally, we will reflect on whether regional and national contestation should be seen as a crisis of integration or as part of a pluralistic European democracy.
Thu, 27	Student Presentation Presentation of students' essay topics Farewell Event
Fri, 28	Departure from Munich