LMU LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

MUNICH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY

MUNICH MISU LMU INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY

European Studies

Vienna – Prague - Munich

Europe Between Integration and Geopolitics: The European Union and its Internal and External Challenges

Tentative SCHEDULE

July 19 – August 13, 2027

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In cooperation with:

CEU Central European University

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

Vienna

Arrival: 18 July (in Vienna)
Sessions: 19 – 29 July
Departure: 29 July
Sessions will take place at:
Central European University
Quellenstraße 51, 1100 Vienna



Senior Lecturer: Sophia C.E. Mard

Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations

Central European University

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.

General course content – Globalisation and the EU

The sessions in Vienna introduce students to the historical trajectory of the European integration process as well as the policy-making system in the EU. Further, the course analyses Europe's role as a n international political and economic actor, and its relations with various countries and regions of the world.

Time	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Mon, 19	**Introduction to the program: Course structure, plan, assignments and introduction** Mandatory reading: the course syllabus (! Come with any and all questions that you still might have about the summer school) This session introduces students to the goals, structure, and expectations of the summer course – as well as importantly to each other, as well as the tutor. We will begin by exploring our varied assumptions, opinions, epiphanies and key questions about the EU, and its role in the contemporary world order, – set against what has been referred to as a polycrisis, marked by a variety of challenges and (potential) solutions. **Guided City Walk with Tutor in Vienna – 5:00 p.m.** Students will be picked by up in the Hotel Lobby	
Tue, 20	**What is Europe: Philosophical Foundations and Competing Ideas of Europe** The European Union was built through a long process that began more than fifty years ago, starting with the European Coal and Steel Community. But it's much harder to pinpoint when the idea of "Europeanness" actually began—where it came from, and how it took shape. Still, understanding this evolving sense of shared identity, cultural affinity, and political imagination that underpin the idea of Europe is crucial, as these more abstract threads often come before, and shape, the formal institutions that we now associate with the European Union. This session investigates the cultural, historical, and philosophical roots of the idea of "Europe."	**What Is Europe: Identity, Belonging and Boundaries** This session explores how Europe constructs its borders— both symbolic and physical—and what those boundaries reveal about identity, belonging, and political power. We'll ask who belongs and who does not in ideas about Europe, and what kinds of criteria—legal, political, or cultural—shape those decisions. Building on our earlier discussion of Europeanness, we'll examine key political flashpoints and enlargements for the intense questions about the nature, reality and source of 'Europeanness' that they tend fuel. These examples will help us explore what it means politically to be "inside" or "outside" Europe.
Wed, 21	**What is (the) European (Union): Institutional Architecture** Building on our socio-cultural conception of Europe, we will begin to outline the technical and empirical dimensions of the European Union as it exists today. This includes examining the foundational treaties—ranging from the Treaty of Paris to the Treaty on Stability, Coordination, and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union—that serve as the EU's constitutional framework. We will then turn to the EU's institutional architecture, focusing on the roles, powers, and interactions of its core bodies: the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, and the Court of Justice. Additionally, we will consider the functions of two key consultative committees: the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. This will provide us with a solid foundation from which to critically engage with european politics throughout the summer school.	**A Primer on Statehood, Governance, and the European Union** In this session, we introduce key concepts from International Relations (IR) to explore how the European Union operates within the global political system. We begin with foundational ideas such as sovereignty, statehood, and the growing influence of non-state actors—conceptual tools that help us make sense of power and governance beyond the nation-state. These frameworks will allow us to ask: Where does the EU fit in? Is it a state, a supranational body, or something entirely new that challenges conventional categories? Building on our earlier discussions of European identity and institutional architecture, we then widen the lens to consider the international order in which the EU is embedded. Throughout the session, we aim to connect theory with real-world questions: how does the EU navigate global power structures, and what does its presence reveal about the changing nature of governance in the 21st century?

Time	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Thu, 22	**Policy-Making and Policies in the European Union** This session examines the EU's policy-making process as a dynamic interplay between formal rules and informal practices. We begin with the institutional framework set out in the treaties, then turn to the Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP)—the core mechanism through which most EU legislation is made. From the Commission's role in drafting proposals to negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council, we follow the legislative journey through key stages of debate, amendment, and adoption. Alongside these formal steps, we explore how trilogues, committee work, and interest group lobbying shape decisions behind the scenes.	**Common Foreign and Security Policy** In this session, we turn to the European Union's role in international diplomacy and foreign affairs through the lens of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It covers all areas of foreign policy, including security and defense. Unlike most areas of EU governance, this policy area has a distinctive institutional framework, in which national diplomats and EU officials jointly make policy on the basis of consensus. We examine the exceptional nature of the CFSP, its institutional architecture, and the complex relation between EU and national foreign policy - key not only in itself, but also in shaping policy outcomes. Central to our discussion is how 27 member states attempt to speak with one voice on matters ranging from sanctions and diplomacy to crisis response.
Fri, 23	**Common Security and Defence Policy** Building on our discussion of the CFSP, this session focuses on the EU's growing engagement in security and defence through the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). We investigate how the EU develops and deploys civilian and military missions in crisis management, cooperates with NATO and other partners, and supports member states through instruments like Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund. Through discussion and case analysis, we will also examine the main challenges facing the CSDP including issues of strategic autonomy, operational capacity, and political cohesion.	**Action, In-Action and the Everyday Practice of EU Foreign and Security Policy** This session shifts from institutional frameworks to real-world application, focusing on how the European Union's foreign and security policy is implemented in practice. Through these examples, we assess the EU's capacity to act coherently and effectively on the global stage, and the practical constraints it faces in doing so in everyday action and (in)action.
Mon, 26	**Regional Challenges: Strained Partnerships (EU-US, EU-NATO)** This session explores the evolving dynamics between the European Union and its key transatlantic partners—the United States and NATO. We examine sources of tension in these relationships, including shifting geopolitical priorities, burden-sharing debates, strategic autonomy, and divergent policy approaches on defense, trade, and global security. At the same time, we consider efforts to manage and strengthen these partnerships through dialogue, institutional coordination, and joint initiatives. The session evaluates both the structural challenges and potential solutions for maintaining effective cooperation in an increasingly complex international environment.	**Regional Challenges: Strained Partnerships (China)** This session examines the increasingly complex and often strained relationship between the European Union and China. We explore key areas of tension, including trade imbalances, human rights concerns, strategic dependencies, and competing geopolitical interests. Particular focus is given to the EU's evolving stance toward China as a "partner, competitor, and systemic rival," and how this multifaceted view shapes its foreign policy. We also consider the tools and strategies the EU employs to navigate this challenging relationship—ranging from diplomacy and trade instruments to investment screening and coordinated action with like-minded partners. The session critically assesses how the EU seeks to balance engagement with assertiveness in its approach to China.

Time	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Tue, 27	**Climate Change and Energy Security** This session examines the European Union's role as a global leader in environmental governance. We trace the development of EU environmental policy, its legal foundations in the Treaties, and the integration of environmental objectives across other policy areas. Particular attention is given to the European Green Deal, the EU's climate targets, and its regulatory frameworks for emissions, biodiversity, and sustainable energy. We also consider how the EU balances environmental leadership with economic and political interests, both internally and in international negotiations - such as in relation to the meaning of development. Through case studies and discussion, we assess the challenges and limitations of the EU's approach to environmental governance.	**The EU, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law** This lecture examines how the EU defines and applies the principles of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. These values, rooted in human dignity and enshrined in Article 2 TEU, are considered universal and indivisible, covering civil, political, social, and cultural rights. In its external action, the EU promotes these values as universal norms. However, critics—especially from non-Western contexts—argue that this reflects a Western-centric model used to serve strategic interests. We will explore how the EU advances its principles both internally, in cases like Hungary, and externally, while addressing the tensions and criticisms it faces in doing so.
Wed, 28	Morning: if possible, Q&A with Emma Wiesner, EU Parliamentarian for the Swedish centre party (TBC) - Short presentation on working at the EU parliament, followed by a Q&A Visit to the House of the EU + Roleplaying Game An interactive visit to the House of the EU will be followed by a role-play simulation (at 14:00) where students assume the positions of different EU institutions. This experiential learning activity will help consolidate our knowledge of EU decision-making and diplomacy, through practice.	
Thu, 29	**Written exam, summary and outlook** **Departure to Prague** **(in the afternoon)**	

Prague

Arrival: 29 July
Sessions: 30 and 31 July
Departure: 2 August
Session will take place at:
Anglo-americká vysoká škola / Anglo-American University Prague
Letenská 120/5, 118 00 Praha 1

Lecturer



Prof. Dan Marek
Palacký University

Dan Marek is Associate Professor of European Politics at the Department of Politics and European Studies, Palacký University, Czech Republic.

He has studied at Palacký University (Czech Republic), University of Umea (Sweden), UCLA (USA) and Hull University (UK). He taught Central European and EU politics at universities in the Netherlands, the UK and USA.

His teaching and research interests include European Union politics, policies and Central European politics. He is a co-author of Cohesion Policy in the European Union (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and The Czech Republic and the European Union (Routledge, 2011) and co-editor of EU Cohesion Policy after Enlargement (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) and The New Member States and the European Union: Foreign Policy and Europeanization (Routledge, 2013).

His other publications include articles on European and Czech politics in the Journal of Common Market Studies, Publius, the Journal of International Relations and Development, Perspectives on European Politics and Society and the Journal of Contemporary European Studies. He also worked as an advisor to the Czech government on the preparations for the Czech EU Presidency (2007-09).

General course content – Europeanization of Member States

The sessions Prague are devoted to Europeanization, i.e. the question in how far the EU changes the political system, politics and policies of its Member States. In this regard and given Prague as venue, the course will especially take into account the perspective of an Eastern European Member State that joined the EU rather recently. Dan Marek of the Palacký University Prague will motivate students to reflect on Member States' different preferences on how to proceed with European integration and why Eastern European Member States currently hold divergent ideas on the EU than Western neighbors with regard to migration-related issues or domestic political reform.

Time		
Thu, 29	**Arrival in Prague** MISU staff will assist you with your travels	
Fri, 30	**Transformation processes in Eastern Europe since 1989: a historic overview** The end of communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) was fast, unexpected and unplanned process. This session will look at the unique political and economic transition of CEE countries to democracy and market economy.	**Central and Eastern European states and their interests in European integration: the political, economic and societal dimension** For CEECs, EU membership marked the end of an almost 15-year effort to "return to Europe" after more than four decades of communist rule and Soviet domination. This session will look at the political, economic and societal dimension of EU's eastward enlargement.
Sat, 31	**The Czech Republic as an EU member state** As a candidate state, the Czech Republic was forced to accept EU rules and policies that it had no role in making. As a member state, however, it has a formal role in EU institutions and an opportunity to influence the EU decision-making process. In this session we will discuss how the Czech Republic copes with her role as an EU member state.	
Sun, 1	**Free Time in Prague**	
Mon, 2	**Departure by train** MISU staff will assist you with your travels **Arrival in Munich** MISU staff will pick you up at Munich's main station	

Departure to Munich: Monday, 2 August

Munich



Arrival: 3 August
Sessions: 4 - 14 August
Departure: 15 August (from Munich)

Session will take place at:
Geschwister-Scholl-Institute,
Oettingenstraße 67
80538 München
Room: tba

Dr. Radu-Mihai Triculescu

LMU Munich, MISU Head of EU Studies Programs

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.

General course content

The EU's Quest for Relevance and Competitiveness

We will have another two weeks of engaging with EU matters. The sessions in Munich will center on current developments in the European Union and on how theory-guided empirical research by EU scholars is discussing current issues such as increasing euroscepticism, the migration crisis, or the role of the EU in the rapidly changing global order.

Time	9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Mon, 2	**Arrival Munich**	
Tue, 3	**Welcome Lecture by Prof. Dr. Klaus Goetz, LMU Munich, Chair of Political Systems and European Integration**	**Political Science Methods: bringing theory and empirics into dialogue** In this special session, we will discuss the requirements for the essays and the presentations. We will look at the standards for proper academic writing, the structuring of papers, development of research questions, presentation of findings, as well as issues such as literature research.
Wed, 4	**Theories of European integration and disintegration** We will discuss different political science theories and how they have been used to explain European integration and a potential future (dis)integration of the EU. We will use Brexit as a case study for evaluating in how far established integration theories perform in explaining the reasons for the EU referendum in the United Kingdom. Group discussions will then focus on growing Euroscepticism and movements calling for other "-exits" from the EU. **Munich City Tour by bus 2:00 p.m.**	
Thu, 5	**Political Culture and European Identity** 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	
Fri, 6	**Addressing the democratic deficit in the EU** There is a vivid debate in the EU studies community on whether the EU suffers a democratic deficit. We review this debate considering the concepts of 'input' and 'output' legitimacy and reflect on the democratic quality of the EU's rule-making system. We will also follow a practical development of the power of democratic institutions such as the European Parliament, and assess if there is, in fact, such a deficit, and what potential solutions might be.	
Sun, 8	**Day Trip to Neuschwanstein Castle** Meeting point: 8.00 a.m. Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1	

Time	9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Mon, 9	**EU in crisis: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice and the crises of migration** This session examines how the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ) has been shaped by successive "migration crises," focusing on how emergency politics and institutional constraints interact. We trace how key AFSJ instruments and arenas (asylum, borders, internal security, and external cooperation) have evolved under pressure, and how responsibilities and burdens have been contested across member states. The discussion connects policy responses to broader debates on solidarity, legality, and implementation capacity in multi-level governance. By the end, participants will be able to critically assess what "crisis" does as a political frame in EU migration governance, and what it obscures.	
Tue, 10	**When Chips Trump Oil – Geoeconomics and Europe's Vulnerabilities** What happens when microchips become more strategic than oil barrels? This session explores how economic interdependence has become a tool of power—and how Europe's prosperity depends on fragile technological and energy supply chains. From gas pipelines to semiconductor fabs, value creation has turned geopolitical. Students will trace how "weaponized interdependence" and innovation gaps expose Europe's vulnerabilities and discuss what it would take to turn dependence into resilience	
Wed, 11	**Ungraded presentation of Students' Essays Part 1** Students will be asked to present a first outline of their essays including the research question and the main hypotheses, central elements of the argumentation and reflections on the sources needed to answer the research question.	**The EU as a Global Actor and Power?** In this session, we will engage with the debate on how to analyze the EU's presence on the international stage, and the ability of the EU to adapt to changing geopolitical contexts. What kind of an actor is the EU? What is the EU's power base vis-à-vis third states? How effective and legitimate are the EU's actions in international negotiations?
Thu, 12	**Ungraded presentation of Students' Essays Part 2** Students will be asked to present a first outline of their essays including the research question and the main hypotheses, central elements of the argumentation and reflections on the sources needed to answer the research question.	**The EU's role in shaping Ukraine's future** The Ukraine crisis reached its climax when Russia invaded the country in February 2022. In this session, we will analyze the reasons for the Ukraine crisis, critically discuss the EU's role in (mis)managing its relationship with Ukraine in the lead-up to the war, and assess what the EU can (and should) do moving forward
Fri, 13	**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. Mario Draghi's report on Europe's competitiveness set clear targets: Europe must establish technological sovereignty and significantly increase productivity to defend its prosperity and security. This session confronts the competitive edge of AI, biotech, and quantum technologies and asks how Europe can position itself between American and Chinese superpowers.	**Closing Session** Final discussion of the Munich part and evaluation of the program **Farewell beer garden "meeting"**
Sat, 14	**Departure**	