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# European Studies Winter School Munich - Vienna

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

Tentative Schedule

January 7 - 26, 2027

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In cooperation with:



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



# Lecturer in Munich

**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.



**Sessions will take place:**

tba

# Schedule

Date	
Wed, 6	<b>Arrival</b>
Thu, 7 09:00 – 12:30	<b>Program introduction (Meeting point: 9:30 a.m. in the Lobby of the hotel)</b>  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.  <b>From the European Community (EC) to European Union (EU) The EU's institutional structure and the Lisbon Treaty</b>  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.
Fri, 8 09:00 – 12:30	<b>Europeanization</b> 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.  <b>Methodology and Academic Writing</b>  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.
Sat, 9	
Sun, 10	<b>Travel to Vienna</b>

Date	
<p>Mon, 11</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30</p>	<p><b>Political culture and European Identity</b></p> <p>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>
<p>Tue, 12</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30</p>	<p><b>The Political Economy of European Integration: The Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Wed, 13</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30</p>	<p><b>The EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ)</b></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>
<p>Thu, 14</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30</p>	<p><b>Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)</b></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>
<p>Fri, 15</p> <p>09:00 – 12:30</p>	<p><b>Europe between Blocs and History – The End of the Liberal International Order?</b></p> <p>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, and how the EU's self-image as a defender of the liberal world order shapes its external and internal policies. The session highlights tensions between political ideals and practical realities in global power dynamics.</p>
<p>Sat, 16</p>	
<p>Sun, 17</p>	<p><b>Travel back to Munich</b></p>

Date	
Mon, 18  09:00 – 12:30	<p><b>When Chips Trump Oil – Geoeconomics and Europe’s Vulnerabilities</b></p> <p>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.</p>
Tue, 19  09:00 – 12:30	<p><b>The Race for Tomorrow – Technology and Power Politics</b></p> <p>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 in order 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. Through interactive debates, students imagine political strategies and alliances that might secure Europe’s place in the world’s new order.</p>
Wed, 20  09:00 – 12:30	<p><b>The Future of Global Cooperation and Multilateralism</b></p> <p>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.</p>
Thu, 21  09:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Migration, Identity and the Politics of Belonging in Europe</b></p> <p>Migration has been one of the most divisive issues in EU politics, particularly since the 2015 refugee crisis. This session will analyse how different national approaches to asylum and integration have shaped the search for a common EU migration policy. Beyond institutional obstacles, we will discuss how questions of identity, cultural belonging and territorial autonomy influence political reactions at both national and regional levels. Special attention will be given to how regions with strong cultural identities respond differently to migration and how the principle of subsidiarity affects policy implementation.</p>
Fri, 22  09:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Public Opinion, Populism and the Challenge to European Integration</b></p> <p>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.</p>
Sa, 23	
Sa, 24	<p><b>Bavarian Winter Excursion (Day Trip)</b></p>

<b>Date</b>	
Mon, 25 09:00 – 12:30	<b>Europe's Normative Power – Human Rights and Climate Policy</b> 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?
Tue, 26 09:00 – 12:30	<b>Presentation of students' essay topics</b>  <b>Farewell Event</b>
Wed, 27	<b>Departure from Munich</b>