LMU LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

MUNICH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY

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European Studies
Munich and Vienna

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

Tentative SCHEDULE

August 3 – 24, 2027
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In cooperation with:

CEU Central European University

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

Key dates

EU Studies Sessions

Arrival:	August 2
EU Studies sessions:	August 3 – 24
Vienna Trip:	August 19 – 22
Departure:	August 25 (at the latest)

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: March 1, 2027

Regular: May 1, 2027

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.

Head of Program
Munich



Radu-Mihai Triculescu

LMU Munich

Radu-Mihai Triculescu is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Chair of Political Systems and European Integration at LMU Munich (Geschwister-Scholl-Institute of Political Science) and a researcher on the ERC Advanced Grant SYNCPOL – Synchronized Politics: Multiple Times and Political Power. His work sits at the intersection of EU migration and asylum governance, public administration, and street-level bureaucracy, with a particular interest in how timing and synchronization shape multi-level policymaking in Europe.

Radu earned his PhD from the University of Twente in 2021, examining how national bureaucracies interpret and implement the Common European Asylum System and what this means for policy harmonization across EU Member States. He holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations (2011) and an MA in International Affairs (2013) from Florida State University, and completed the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in International Migration and Social Cohesion (University of Amsterdam, University of Deusto, and University of Osnabrück) in 2015. In 2024, he published Assessing the Common European Asylum System: Discretionary Implementation and Street-Level Bureaucracy (Brill-Nijhoff).

Alongside academia, he previously worked as an Associate Policy Analyst at Migration Policy Institute Europe, focusing on EU asylum governance (including the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum) and related return/reintegration issues; earlier roles included public affairs work in Romania and advising the Romanian Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development on European and international affairs.

Lecturer in Munich



Moritz Goldfuß
LMU Munich

Moritz Goldfuß graduated from Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich with degrees in Political Science, Law, and Sinology and is currently pursuing a PhD at the Chair for Political Theory.

Moritz holds an MPhil in Political and Economic Sociology from the University of Cambridge and has also studied 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.

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: tba

Date	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 2	**Arrival (2:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.)**
Tue, 3	**Welcome Lecture by Prof. Dr. Klaus Goetz, LMU Munich, Chair of Political Systems and European Integration** **Program introduction and first session: From the European Community (EC) to European Union (EU) – The EU's institutional structure and the Lisbon Treaty** 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.
Wed, 4	**European History 101** In this session, we will cover the history of Europe in the 19th and 20th century. We will focus on World War I and the era of "great power competition", and especially the crises of 1920s and the rise of Fascist, National Socialist and Communist dictatorships and World War II in Europe. We will learn how the people of Europe and their political leaders sought a way to ensure that the horror and devastation of World War II can never be repeated and learn about the political innovations they created for this purpose. This is where the history of today's "European Union" begins, and its fundamental purpose remains the same now as then: to ensure peace among Europe's nations.
Thu, 5	**Europeanization, Political Culture and European Identity** Based on the preceding session, we will introduce and discuss the concept of "Europeanization" to illustrate how European integration impacted national political systems over a process of several decades. Alongside the institutional and legal dimension of European integration, this session contextualizes it through the lens of political culture and identity. In what sense we speak of a shared "European identity"? What constitutes European culture? Where and when do substantial disagreements arise? We will explore theories of identity (politics) and examine empirical data on identity issues within Europe. **City Tour by bus at 2 p.m.**
Fri, 6	**The Political Economy of European Integration: The Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)** This session focuses on the economic dimension of European integration. Students will be introduced to the Single Market and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), which are central to the EU's governance architecture and significantly shape economic activity within and beyond the Union. The Single Market, based on the four fundamental freedoms, fosters economic development and interdependence among member states, while the EMU coordinates economic and fiscal policies and provides a common currency. While it has been successful at creating shared prosperity, we will begin covering old and new frictions and weaknesses.

Date/ Time	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 9	**Geoeconomics and Europe's Vulnerabilities** This session dives into Europe's exposure to global supply shocks, energy crises, and technological dependencies. Through case studies, students explore Europe's core economic strengths and weaknesses and the EU's strategic options.
Tue, 10	**The EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ)** 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. 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.
Wed, 11	**Migration and Asylum Policy** 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.
Thu, 12	**Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)** Originating in the 1970s under the term European Political Cooperation, today's CFSP and CSDP have become central to the EU's external action. We trace how these frameworks have evolved 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. We will discuss the Russian attack on Ukraine and other pressing security and defense challenges, and how the EU and individual member states seek to respond.
Fri, 13	**Methodology and Academic Writing** 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, 14	
Sun, 15	**Day Trip Castle Neuschwanstein** Meeting point at 8 a.m. at Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1

Date/ Time	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 16	**Technology and Power Politics** This session confronts new areas of competition around critical technologies and asks how Europe can position itself amid American and Chinese competition. Students will develop and discuss new political and economic strategies and alliances that might help to secure Europe's peace and prosperity in the world's new order.
Tue, 17	**Europe's Role in a Changing World** This block examines Europe's geopolitical position shaped by the legacy of the Cold War and ongoing power rivalries. It explores the EU's dynamic relationships with countries and blocs around the world, 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 the tensions between political ideals and practical realities in global power dynamics.
Wed, 18	**Library Day** Research for student presentations
Thu, 19	**Departure to Vienna**
Fri, 20	**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, 21	**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, 22	**Departure to Munich**

Date/ Time	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)
Mon, 23	**Challenges 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 mobilizing around dissatisfaction around migration, economic inequality and loss of national sovereignty. We will discuss the main characteristics of populist parties in the EU and their strategies, 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.
Tue, 24	**Student Presentation** Presentation of students' essay topics **Farewell**
Wed, 25	**Departure**