LMU LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

MUNICH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY

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European Studies Winter School
Munich - Vienna

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

Tentative Schedule

January 7 - 26, 2027

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In cooperation with:

CEU Central European University

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

Sessions will take place:

First Day of Class, January 7: Internationales Begegnungszentrum IBZ, Amalienstraße 38, Group A+B

January 8: Group A: Internationales Begegnungszentrum IBZ,
Group B: GSI, Oettingenstraße 67, Room 131

In Vienna: Central European University, Quellenstraße 51, Group A+B

From January 18: Edmund-Rumpler-Straße 9
Group A: Room A 005
Group B: Room A 085

Lecturers in Munich

Moritz Felici Goldfuß, MPhil
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.

He 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.

Julio Ramos Pires, L.LM.
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.

Schedule

Date	
Wed, 6	**Arrival**
Thu, 7 10:00 – 12:30	**Program introduction (Meeting point: 9:30 a.m. in the Lobby of the hotel)** 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. 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, the outbreak of World War II in Europe, and the Shoah. 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. **2:00 p.m. Uhr Guided City Tour**
Fri, 8 09:00 – 12:30	**From the European Communities (EC) to European Union (EU) – The EU's Institutional Structure and the Lisbon Treaty** The session 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. Students will learn about the major political and historical milestones and the long evolution of the European Communities into today's European Union. The session will also cover the development of EU institutions, decision-making processes, and the EU's systemic and institutional characteristics. **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, 9	
Sun, 10	**Travel to Vienna**

Date	
Mon, 11 09:00 – 12:30	**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.
Tue, 12 09:00 – 12:30	**Migration, Identity and the Politics of Belonging in Europe** 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.
Wed, 13 09:00 – 12:30	**Open**
Thu, 14 09:00 – 12:30	**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?
Fri, 15 09:00 – 12:30	**Europe between Blocs and History – The End of the Liberal International Order?** 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.
Sat, 16	
Sun, 17	**Travel back to Munich**

Date	
Mon, 18 09:00 – 12:30	**Europeanization, Political Culture and European Identity** Based on the preceding sessions, 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.
Tue, 19 09:00 – 12:30	**The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)** Originating in the 1970s, 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 the objective of defining and pursuing its 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 in Europe and beyond. **6:00 p.m. Get-Together with LMU students**
Wed, 20 09:00 – 12:30	**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.
Thu, 21 09:00 – 12:30	**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 also begin covering old and new frictions and weaknesses of this arrangement.
Fri, 22 09:00 – 12:30	**The Race for Tomorrow – Geoeconomics, Technology and Power Politics** This session explores 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 amid intensifying pressure. Mario Draghi's report on Europe's competitiveness set clear targets: Europe must establish technological sovereignty and significantly increase productivity to safeguard its prosperity and security. This session introduces the role of AI, biotech, and quantum technologies and other technologies.
Sa, 23	**Bavarian Winter Excursion – Trip to Salzburg (Day Trip)**
So, 24	

Date	
Mon, 25 09:00 – 12:30	**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.
Tue, 26 09:00 – 12:30	**Presentation of students’ essay topics** **Farewell Event**
Wed, 27	**Departure from Munich**