

THE EUROPEAN EQUATION: EUROPE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD

Professor: **Jan ROVNY, Giovanni GREVI, Earl WANG**

Session: **July 2026**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **36h**

Format: **On campus**



Objective of the Course

This course explores the role of the European Union in a rapidly shifting global landscape shaped by the competing influences of internal European social and political dynamics, as well as global engagement with major powers, particularly the United States and China.

The first theme examines the EU's history, institutions, and political frameworks, as well as competing identities, laying the foundation for understanding its internal cohesion and external ambitions.

The second theme focuses on the EU's transatlantic relationship with the US, analyzing strategic alliances and areas of tension.

The third theme delves into the EU's engagement with China, addressing issues such as trade, technology, security and connectivity in the context of global power competition. Through these themes, the course provides a comprehensive understanding of the EU's position and influence in navigating 21st-century geopolitics.



Organization of the course

THEME 1 HISTORY, INSTITUTIONS, POLITICS

Session 1 (July 2, 9:30-12:30) History of European Integration 3h (JR)

Why do we have European integration? What was the start of the EU? In which policy-domains did EU integration develop fast in which did it develop slowly?

Readings:

- 1) Lelieveldt, Herman and Princen, Sebastiaan (2023). The Politics of the European Union. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1 “The Historical Development of the EU” [[access through Sciences Po library online](#)]

Session 2 (July 3, 9:30-12:30) Understanding European Integration 3h (JR)

How can we understand what the EU is? Who wanted the EU and why? How have the constitutional contours of the EU change over time?

- 1) Lelieveldt, Herman and Princen, Sebastiaan (2023). The Politics of the European Union. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2 [[access through Sciences Po library online](#)]

Session 3 (July 6, 10:30-12:30) Institutions of the European Union 2h (JR)

How does decision-making in the EU work? Who does what? What are the key issues in the institutional arrangements of the EU?

- 1) Lelieveldt, Herman and Princen, Sebastiaan (2023). The Politics of the European Union. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 3 “The Institutional Framework” [[access through Sciences Po library online](#)]

Session 4 (July 7, 14:00-16:00) Democracy in Europe 2h (JR)

What is democracy and what is democratic backsliding?

Reading

- 1) Schmitter and Karl 1991 [What Democracy Is... and is not.](#)
- 2) Bermeo 2016 [On Democratic Backsliding](#)

Session 5 (July 8, 10:30-12:30) Political Parties and Democratic Decline in the EU 2h (JR)

Where do political parties stand in their view of European integration and democracy? How are these positions connected?

- 1) Vachudova (2021) [Populism, Democracy and Party System Change in Europe.](#) Annual Review of Political Science

Session 6 (July 9, 14:00-16:00) Euroscepticism, Citizens and Democracy 2h (JR)

Who cares about Europe? How has the EU gone from being a tolerated trading regime to a hotly contested level of government? What are individual level sources of support for or opposition to democracy in Europe?

Reading

- 1) Hooghe et al. 2024 [Field of Education and Political Behavior: Predicting GAL/TAN Voting.](#) APSR

Session 7 (July 10, 10:30-12:30) Enlargement and the support for Ukraine 2h (JR)

How does a country become a member of the European Union? What has been the logic of EU enlargement? What are the prospects for future enlargements, particularly towards Ukraine?

Reading

- 1) Bernard [“Twenty years after the largest-ever enlargement”](#) Robert Schuman Foundation
- 2) Hooghe et al. (2024) [“The Russian Threat and the Consolidation of the West”](#) European Union Politics

THEME 2. INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION – UNITED STATES

This section will provide context to the analysis of the EU as an international actor, outlining some of the main trends that are shaping the international (dis)order and discussing possible developments ahead. It will also address the evolution of the strategic approach of the United States in the last 20 years, assessing how such evolution both reflects and shapes broader changes on the international stage. This section will also focus on the implications of shifting U.S. priorities for European foreign policy and transatlantic relations.

Session 8 - Evolution of the international order: trends and prospects 3,5h (GG)

What are the structural trends that are driving change in the international order, and how do they intersect? Is multilateralism under threat? How can we envisaged the future of the international (dis)order 5 to 10 years down the line?

Readings:

- E. Noonan et al., *Choosing Europe’s Future*, European Strategy and Policy Analysis System, April 2024.
- M. Spektor, *Rise of the nonaligned. Who wins in a Multipolar World?*. Foreign Affairs, January/February 2025.
- M. Beckley, *The Stagnant Order and the End of Rising Powers*, Foreign Affairs, November/December 2025.
- M. Carney, *Principled and pragmatic: Canada’s path*, Addresses the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, 20 January 2026.

Session 9 - Evolution of US grand strategy and implications for transatlantic relations 3,5h (GG)

How have the United States defined and advanced their strategic priorities since the 2008 global financial crisis? What aspects of change, and what areas of continuity with the second Trump administration? What about the state of play and the future of the transatlantic partnership?

Readings:

- B. Rhodes, *A Foreign Policy for the World As It Is. Biden and the Search for a New American Strategy*, Foreign Affairs, Volume 103, No.4, July/August 2024.
- R.C. O'Brien, *The Return of Peace Through Strength. Making the Case for Trump's Foreign Policy*, Foreign Affairs, Volume 103, No.4, July/August 2024.
- *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*, The White House, November 2025.
- M. Matthijs and N. Tocci, *How Europe Lost. Can the Continent Escape Its Trump Trap?*, Foreign Affairs, January/February 2026.

NEGOTIATION GAME

Session 10 (July 17, 9:30 – 12:30) 3h (JR and EW)

Negotiation game on EU enlargement to Ukraine

THEME 3. INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION – CHINA

This section will explore the EU as an international actor, particularly its foreign policy on China. It will first provide an overview of the EU's actorhood. It will be followed by the institutional design and decision-making methods in EU foreign policy. It will then study policy areas of economy and trade, technology and investment, and connectivity and the system of values in the EU's relations with China.

Session 11: EU as an International Actor (EW)

Monday 20 July 9.30-11.30 (2h)

Reading:

Keuleers, Floor, Daan Fonck and Stephan Keukeleire. 2016. "Beyond EU navel-gazing: Taking stock of EU-centrism in the analysis of EU foreign policy." *Cooperation and Conflict* 51(3): 341-364. [[access through Sciences Po library online](#)]

Session 12: EU Foreign Policy: Actors and Decision-Making (EW)

Tuesday 21 July 9.30-11.30 (2h)

Reading:

Keukeleire, Stephan and Tom Delreux. 2022. "The EU's Foreign Policy System: Actors" in *The Foreign Policy of the European Union*, 77-116. London, New York: Bloomsbury Academic. [[access through Sciences Po library](#)]

Session 13: Economic and Trade Dimension (EW)

Tuesday 21 July 14.00-16.00 (2h)

Reading:

Federation of German Industries. [*Partner and Systemic Competitor – How Do We Deal with China’s State-Controlled Economy?*](#) Berlin: Federation of German Industries, January 2019.

Session 14: Technology and Security Dimension (EW)

Wednesday 22 July 9.30-11.30 (2h)

Reading:

Zenglein, Max J., and Anna Holzmann. [*Evolving Made in China 2025: China’s industrial policy in the quest for global tech leadership*](#). Berlin: Mercator Institute for China Studies, 2019.

Duchâtel, Mathieu. [*The New Landscape of Investment Screening in Europe*](#). Paris: Institut Montaigne, 2021.

Session 15: Connectivity and the System of Values Dimension (EW)

Wednesday 22 July 14.00-16.00 (2h)

Reading:

Raimundo, António, Stelios Stavridis, and Charalambos Tsardanidis. 2021. "The Eurozone crisis’ impact: a de-Europeanization of Greek and Portuguese foreign policies?" *Journal of European Integration* 43(5): 535-550. [[access through Sciences Po library online](#)]

Smith, Karen E. 2015. "The EU as a diplomatic actor in the field of human rights." in *The European Union as a Diplomatic Actor*, edited by Joachim A. Koops and Gjovalin Macaj, 155-177. UK: Palgrave Macmillan. [[access through Sciences Po library online](#)]



Requirements for validation

Active participation and reading	20%
Negotiation Game	30%
Final Exam	50%



Professors’ Biography



Jan Rovny is a professor at the Sciences Po Center for European Studies (CEE). His research concentrates on political competition in Europe with the aim of uncovering the ideological conflict lines in different countries. At the Summer School, he will teach the themes “History of the European Integration” and “The Political System of the EU.”



Earl Wang is director of studies at the Robert Schuman Foundation. He is also an associate researcher at Sciences Po and at the Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM) of the French Ministry of Armed Forces. At the Summer School (University Programme), he will teach the theme "Europe in the World".



Giovanni Grevi is a Senior Associate Fellow at the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) of the Brussels School of Governance (BSoG-VUB). He

teaches European foreign policy and international relations at the BSoG-VUB, at the College of Europe, Bruges, and at Sciences Po, Paris. Giovanni has worked

and published extensively on EU foreign and security policy, global order, foresight, US foreign policy and EU politics and institutions. Between 2016 and 2020, Giovanni was the Head of the Europe in the World programme and a Senior Fellow with the European Policy Centre (EPC). Previously, he worked at the Foundation for International Relations and External Dialogue (FRIDE) as Director and Senior Researcher (2010-2015). Giovanni served as a Senior Research Fellow at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) from 2005 to 2010 and worked at the EPC as Policy Analyst and Associate Director of Studies (1999-2005). He is a Senior Associate Fellow with ISPI and with the EPC.