

EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY

Professor: **Earl Wang**
Session: **July 2026**
Language of instruction: **English**
Number of hours of class: **12.5**



Objective of the Course

The course serves as an introduction to the field of study in European Union (EU) foreign policy. Students will acquire knowledge about the EU as an international actor, the institutional design of EU foreign policy, and concrete examples of the EU's engagement in global affairs.



Summary

The EU has been a unique and dedicated actor in the international system. Facing evolving world politics, the EU has reformed accordingly. As a significant actor, the foreign policy of the EU attracts considerable attention under the current global geopolitical context (the War in Ukraine, the Trump administration, Sino-Russian partnership, etc).

The course will first examine the notion of the EU's 'actorness' in international relations. It will then explain the main actors and decision-making processes in EU foreign policy. The last part will touch upon the EU's contribution to global security and the EU's interactions with major world powers.



Organization of the course

Session 1: Actors and Decision-Making in EU Foreign Policy

The session will map up the institutional design (various actors and different decision-making methods) of EU foreign policy.

Reading: Keukeleire, Stephan, and Tom Delreux. “The EU Foreign Policy System: Actors.” In *The Foreign Policy of the European Union*, 77-116. London; New York: Bloomsberry Publishing, 2022.

Session 2: The EU’s ‘Actorness’ in International Relations

The session will examine the broader dimensions which EU foreign policy incorporates, and the concept of the EU’s ‘actorness’ in international relations.

Reading: Keukeleire, Stephan, and Sharon Lecocq. “Operationalising the Decentring Agenda: Analysing European Foreign Policy in a Non-European and Post-Western World.” *Cooperation and Conflict* 53, no. 2 (2018): 277–95.

Session 3: The EU as a Leading Economic and Trade Actor

The session will look into how the EU mobilises its economic and trade strengths to be a leading foreign policy actor. It will also discuss how the EU is facing challenges to multilateralism and liberalism in world trade.

Reading: Garcia, Maria. “From Idealism to Realism. EU Preferential Trade Agreement Policy.” *Journal of Contemporary European Research* 9, no. 4 (2013): 521-541.

Session 4: The EU’s Contribution to Global Security

The session will introduce the important steps towards the Common Security and Defence Policy and beyond, and examples of the EU’s engagement in global security.

Reading: Howorth, Jolyon. “Differentiation in Security and Defence Policy.” *Comparative European Politics* 17, no. 2 (2019): 261-277.

Session 5: The EU’s Interactions with Major World Powers

The session will study the key topics in the EU’s foreign relations with major world powers (particularly the US, Russia and China) under the current global geopolitical context.

Reading: Ikenberry, John. “The End of Liberal International Order?” *International Affairs* 94, no. 1 (2018): 7-23.



Bibliography

Foxall, Andrew. “From Evropa to Gayropa: A Critical Geopolitics of the European Union as Seen from Russia.” *Geopolitics* 24, no. 1 (2019): 174-193.

Geeraerst, Gustaaf. “The EU-China Partnership: Balancing between Divergence and Convergence.” *Asia Europe Journal* 17, no. 3 (2019): 281-294.

Howorth, Jolyon. “Differentiation in Security and Defence Policy.” *Comparative European Politics* 17, no. 2 (2019): 261-277.

Ikenberry, John. "The End of Liberal International Order?" *International Affairs* 94, no. 1 (2018): 7-23.

Keukeleire, Stephan, and Tom Delreux. "The EU Foreign Policy System: Actors." In *The Foreign Policy of the European Union*, 77-116. London; New York: Bloomsberry Publishing, 2022.

Keukeleire, Stephan, and Sharon Lecocq. "Operationalising the Decentring Agenda: Analysing European Foreign Policy in a Non-European and Post-Western World." *Cooperation and Conflict* 53, no. 2 (2018): 277-95.



Requirements for validation

Students will be assessed on their participation in class throughout the programme (20% of the grade) and on an oral exam, the *Petit Oral* (80% of the grade).

The *Petit Oral* will take place on Thursday afternoon of the second week of the programme. It will consist of a group presentation on an assigned topic. Q&A will follow the presentation.



Professor's Biography



Dr. Earl Wang is Director of Studies at the Robert Schuman Foundation. He is also a lecturer at Sciences Po and an associate researcher at the Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM) of the French Ministry of Armed Forces.