

## EUROPEAN UNION FOREIGN POLICY

Professor: **Earl Wang**  
Session: **July 2025**  
Language of instruction: **English**  
Number of hours of class: **10h**



### Objective of the Course

The course serves as an introduction to the field of study on the European Union's (EU) foreign policy. Students will acquire fundamental knowledge including the EU's 'actorness' in the international system, 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. In the face of the development of world politics, the EU has responded and evolved accordingly. As a significant actor, the foreign policy of the EU attracts considerable attention under the current global geopolitical context.

The course will first examine the notion of the EU as an international actor. 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:** The EU as an International Actor

The session will introduce the aspects which EU foreign policy incorporates, and the concept of the EU's 'actorness' studied in academic literature.

**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 2: 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 3: The EU's Contribution to Global Security

The session will examine 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 4: 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 the Thursday of the second week of the programme (TBC). It will consist of a group presentation on an assigned topic. Q&A will follow the presentation.



## Professor's Biography



Earl Wang, PhD, is an associate researcher and adjunct lecturer at the Centre for International Studies - Sciences Po/CNRS. He is also a fellow at the Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific, and an associate researcher at the Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM).