MSc Crisis and Security Management

The European Union's Role in Security and Global Affairs

(Elective & Micro-credential Pilot)

Syllabus 2026

Universiteit Leiden
Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs



Level: 500

Credits: 5 ECTS

Time: March – May 2026

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I. Course Description

Welcome to the MSc CSM Elective 'The European Union's Role in Security in Global Affairs', developed as part of the education offerings of the Jean Monnet Chair on the EU's role in Security and Global Affairs. In this course, we will together analyze some core challenges the EU is facing in the realm of security and global affairs, examine response, limitations and alternative approaches. This course serves as both an elective for the MSc in Crisis and Security Management as well as the pilot course for the EURISGA Micro-credential with the same title. The course is therefore also open to the wider Leiden community beyond the MA.

Background and Context:

The European Union (EU) and its member states have not only committed themselves to building an internal politico-economic integration project, but have also attempted to forge a common approach to its external relations. Indeed, since the 1970s, the EU has increasingly tried to develop a meaningful role and impact in global affairs, particularly in relation to tackling a variety of cross-border challenges of global governance. However, particularly since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and in an increasingly geopoliticised international climate of great power rivalry and changing power realignments, the EU and its member states grapple with responding effectively to a wide range of security and defence challenges.

At the same time, pressing threats and global governance challenges, such as climate change, the governance of Artificial Intelligence, the undermining of democracy and human rights and the rise of regional and world-wide conflicts, continue to require effective policy responses by the Europeans. But is the EU, its member states and its partners up to it? What works, what does not work and what needs to be done to strengthen the EU's and Europeans' role in security and global affairs?

This course seeks to offer concrete answers to these questions by inviting students to explore the evolution, policies and potentials, successes and failures and concrete ways ahead for the European Union, its member states and its international partners in the realm of security and global affairs. Particular emphasis will be placed on the EU's inter-organisational relations with other core organisations (esp. the United Nations and NATO) and an analysis of the challenges of advancing global governance solutions in an increasingly geopoliticised international environment.

Course objectives

At the end of this course students will:

- Understand the historical and current evolution, policies and impact of the EU in Security and Global Affairs and its cooperation with major international organisations in advancing global governance solutions in an increasingly geopoliticised environment;
- Analyze the EU's and the European Union member states' approaches to security and global affairs;
- Critically evaluate and reflect on potential future scenarios for a more impactful role of the European Union and core European member states in core policy fields related to security and global affairs.
- Further transfer academic insights and research on relevant literature into real-life scenario and for real-life problem solving

II. Timetable

Week 1 **Monday** **30 March**	09:15 – 10:30 10:45 – 12:00	**Introduction to the Course** • Welcome, objectives and aims of the course and planning. • Student Questionnaire **Backgrounder: The EU's Role in Security and Global Affairs – Course Perspectives, Analytical Lenses and Approaches** • The EU's role in Security and Global Affairs: What is at Stake? • How should we analyze the EU's role, in Security and Global Affairs? A multi-actor, multi-level perspective
Week 2 **TUESDAY** **7 April**	09:15 – 10:30 10:45 – 12:00	**The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy, Common Security and Defence Policy and the issue of European Defence** Our module of Week 2 will consist of 3 parts. • Part 1 will provide a brief history of the EU's evolution and treaty-based objectives (and values) in the realm of security and global affairs , including a concise overview of the evolution and nuts and bolts of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), • Part 2 will provide an introduction to the Common Security and Defence Policy, established in 1998/1999 • Part 3 will dive deeper into the issues of European Defence and Dependencies, particularly in light of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and wider geopolitical and transatlantic pressures
Week 3 **Monday** **13 April**	9:15 – 10:30 10:45 – 12:00	**Caught Between Effective Multilateralism, Global Governance and Geopolitics: The European Union's Relations with International Organisations** The Module of Week 3 will consist of 2 parts: - Part 1 will be a lecture, providing you an overview of the Eu's Foreign Policy goal of 'effective multilateralism', its cooperation with International Organisations (particularly) the UN and the (declining) approach to global governance - Part 2 will be a guest lecture by **Ambassador Mika-Markus Leinonen** – European External Action Service Ambassador to the OPCW and other Hague-based International Organisations and former director for civilian crisis management

Week 4 **Monday** **20 April**	09:00 – 11.30	**MIDTERM EXAM** Exam: 09:00-11:00 (Spui building, 2C.02) Exam: 09:00-11:30 (Wijnhaven, for students with extra facilities).
27 April **No Class – Reading Week**		
Week 5 **Monday** **4 May**	09:15 – 10:15 10:45 – 12:00	**The European Union, Energy (In)Dependencies and Climate Change: Between Sustainable Energy Transitions and Planetary Security** In the module of Week 5, we will explore the interlinkages between the EU as an actor in global climate policies, the tensions this creates with energy policies and dependencies, the strive towards energy independence and the environmental-economic dimensions of planetary security. -
Week 6 **Monday** **11 May**	09:15 – 10:15 10:45 – 12:00	**The European Union, Technology and Security** **(AI, Critical Raw Materials, EU and Big Tech)** **&** **Guest Lecture on the Future of Transatlantic Relations by** **Dr. Dominik Tolksdorf** The Module of Week 6 will consist of 2 parts: - In Part 1 we will examine the EU's role in the fields of technology and security – which includes the challenges of governing (and harnessing) AI, dealing with critical raw materials and the influence of US big tech on the EU and the EU's attempts of regulating the sector - Part 2 will be a guest lecture by **Dr. Dominik Tolksdorf** – specialist in Transatlantic Relations on the current and future in EU-US relations.
Week 7 **Monday** **18 May**	09:15 – 10:15 10:45 – 12:00	**The EU, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Justice** **&** **EU-China Relations** **&** **Future of the EU's Role in Security and Global Affairs**

		The final module consists of two parts: - Part 1 will explore the EU's role as a promoter of democracy, human rights (and the rule of law) and the broader aim of 'global justice' – including internal challenges and how they intersect with external challenges - Part 2 will delve into the topic of EU-China relations in the realm of security and global affairs (student preference) - The session will finish with a wrap up of the course and final reflections with course participants on the future of the EU's role in security and global affairs
26 May	**09:00-11:00**	**FINAL EXAMS** **Wijnhaven 2.17 & 2.19**
Resits **23 June**	**09:00-11:00**	**Spui 2B.58**

III. Course Load, Organisation, and Assessment

The course consists of 7 sessions. Classes will be dedicated to (guest) lectures and group discussions. Students are required to participate actively in class discussion, based on extensive reading material. Attendance is mandatory. Students are only allowed to miss more than one lecture if there are special, demonstrable personal circumstances. The Board of Examiners, in consultation with the study advisors, will decide on such an exceptional exemption of mandatory attendance.

This course is worth 5 ECTS, which means the total course load amounts to 125 hours:

- Contact hours: 21 hours (lectures and exams)
- Self-study hours: 104 hours (reading, preparing for lectures, preparations for exams)

The assessment for this course is based on **two exams**

A. Mid-term Exam (30% of the final grade) consisting of a mix of short answer questions
B. A final exam (70%) with a mix of short answer questions and longer analytical essay questions

The exams will take place in a computer room with dedicated IT equipment. The mid-term exam will cover the reading material and lectures of the first two weeks. The final exam will cover all material encountered during the course. The best preparation for both exams is to thoroughly read the reading material (particularly those marked as compulsory reading – but the more additional reading you can manage, the better), to come to lectures in a prepared manner and actively engage in class discussions. For the long questions in the final exam it will be advisable to recall core arguments from different authors and anchor your own reasoning in the course material.

IV. Reading Material, Guiding Questions and Reading Groups

All reading materials will be posted on Brightspace. They are a mix of background foundational texts (drawing on the Hill/Smith/Vanhoonacker 4th Edition of *International Relations and the European Union,* Oxford University Press), scholarly articles, current affairs journals and think tank analyses.

Journals that are recommended for EU-related analysis:

European Security
Journal of Common Market Studies
Journal of European Public Policy
West European Politics
European Journal of International Relations
European Foreign Affairs Review
Security Dialogue
Conflict & Cooperation
International Organization
Global Governance
International Affairs
Survival
International Peacekeeping

Reading Groups and Recurring Guiding Questions

As you can see in the box below, for each session there are several core recurring guiding questions that you are encouraged to reflect on and prepare your views on ahead of each lecture on each weekly topics (the questions below are in fact the same ones we will reflect on for each topic in line also with the analytical framework encountered in Session 1).
If you indicated that you are interested in joining a 'reading group' then you will be assigned to a group of 4-5 fellow students with whom you can meet outside class to discuss the readings and guiding questions. You are encouraged to discuss in your reading group (or reflect on your own) on the following core questions for each session:

General Guiding Questions for each Session and for your Reading Group:

What is the policy problem/challenge?
What or Who is the cause of the problem?
What has been the response of the 'EU' – what can it do differently? Which actor would need to change action?
How can a 'better policy' in security and global affairs be achieved by the EU?
What are the core barriers to this 'better policy'?

What were the outcomes of the team discussion? Which insights did I bring to the table?

Which piece of literature/information did I find in particular worth reading/recommending?

What counterarguments (also counter-arguments in additional literature I knew/found) could be raised?

Which questions are still open for me? What other curiosity-driven aspects would I like to pursue and share at the next seminar?

1. Think tanks with good resources and events on the European Union:

Bruegel https://www.bruegel.org
Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) www.ceps.be
European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) https://ecfr.eu
Carnegie Europe http://carnegieeurope.eu/
EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) http://www.iss.europa.eu
European Policy Centre (EPC) https://www.epc.eu
Brussels Institute for Geopolitics (BIG) https://big-europe.eu
Global Governance Institute (GGI) www.globalgovernance.eu

International Think Tanks:
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) http://csis.org
Brookings - http://www.brookings.edu

Chatham House http://www.chathamhouse.org
Council on Foreign Relations http://www.cfr.org
RAND Corporation http://www.rand.org
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) https://www.nupi.no/en
International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) http://www.iiss.org
Global Governance Institute www.globalgovernance.eu
International Crisis Group http://www.crisisgroup.org
Human Rights Watch https://www.hrw.org/fr
Transparency International https://www.transparency.org/en

2. Selection of Think Tanks (national) dealing with EU issues from a national and European perspective:

Austria
Austria Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) https://www.aies.at/english/
Belgium:
Egmont Institute www.egmontinstitute.be
Croatia:
Croatian Public Policy Think Tank https://www.cea-policy.hr/croatia-public-policy-think-tank/
Czechia
EUROPEUM – Institute for European Policy https://www.europeum.org/en/
Institute of International Relations https://www.iir.cz/en/
Association for International Affairs https://www.amo.cz/en/
Denmark:
Think Tank Europa https://thinkeuropa.dk/en
Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) https://www.diis.dk/en
Estonia:
International Centre for Defence and Security https://icds.ee/en/
Finland:
Finnish Institute for International Affairs https://fiia.fi/en/
France:
Institut Français des Relations Internationales https://www.ifri.org
Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute - https://institutdelors.eu/en/
Germany :
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik https://www.swp-berlin.org/en/
German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) https://dgap.org/en
Kiel Institute for the World Economy - https://www.kielinstitut.de
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung https://www.kas.de/en/home
Friedrich Naumann Foundation https://www.freiheit.org
Heinrich Boell Foundation http://www.boell.eu/

Ireland:
The Institute of International and European Affairs - https://www.iiea.com
Italy:
Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) - https://www.ispionline.it/en
Instituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) - https://www.iai.it/en
Slovakia
Slovak Foreign Policy Association - https://www.sfpa.sk/en/
GLOBSE - https://www.globsec.org
Spain:
Elcano Royal Institute http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/
Access Info Europe https://www.access-info.org/publications/
Barcelona Center for International Affairs https://www.cidob.org/en
Sweden
Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies - https://sieps.se/en/
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) http://www.sipri.org
The Netherlands:
Clingendael Institute https://www.clingendael.org
The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies https://hcss.nl
Scientific Council for Government Policy https://english.wrr.nl

V. Course Schedule and Session Outline

Week 1 (Monday, 30 March 2026)

Introduction Session

In this first session, you will be introduced to the overarching objectives of the course, the main set-up and structure. The session will provide you with an opening background and analytical framework for studying the EU's role in Security and Global Affairs. Last but not least, the session will include an intake questionnaire, where you will be able to indicate your learning and topic preferences and provide some additional information about yourself and your interests.

Background Reading (to be completed after the session):

1. Christopher Hill, Michael Smith and Sophie Vanhoonacker (2023) 'The European Union in World Politics: An Historical Overview', in Hill/Smith/Vanhoonacker (eds.) International Relations and the European Union, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th edition, pp 22 – 43

2. Joachim Koops (2025) 'Between Global Governance and Geopolitical Europe: The EU's Paradigmatic Debate of 'What kind of Power' Revisited', in K.E. Jorgensen et al. (eds.) Europe's World: Policy Paradigms, Strategic Thinking and the Anti-Liberal Challenge, Bristol: Bristol University Press, pp. 65-91.

Week 2 (Tuesday, 7 April 2026)

The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy, Common Security and Defence Policy and the issue of European Defence

This session will consist of 3 parts.

- Part 1 will provide a brief history of the EU's evolution and treaty-based objectives (and values) in the realm of security and global affairs , including a concise overview of the evolution and nuts and bolts of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP),
- Part 2 will provide an introduction to the Common Security and Defence Policy, established in 1998/1999
- Part 3 will dive deeper into the issues of European Defence and Dependencies, particularly in light of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and wider geopolitical and transatlantic pressures

Readings:

Background Reading on the institutional frameworks and evolution of CFSP and CSDP and Financing European Defence **(Compulsory)**

1. Sophie Vanhoonacker and Karolina Pomorska (2023) 'The Institutional Framework' in Hill/Smith/Vanhoonacker (eds.) International Relations and the European Union, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th edition, pp 67– 90
2. Jolyon Howorth (2023) 'The EU's Security and Defence Policy: A new Leap Forward?' in Hill, Smith, Vanhoonacker, pp. 305 – 326.
3. David Genini (2025) 'How the War in Ukraine has transformed the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy', *Yearbook of European Law*, pp. 1-43
4. Daniel Fiott (2025) More Money, More Dependence? Financing European Union Defence for Autonomy and Cooperation, FEPS Policy Brief (available online at https://feps-europe.eu/publication/more-money-more-dependence/)
5. Eva Michaels and Monika Sus (2025) 'Strategic Autonomy in Security and Defence as an Impracticability? How the European Union's Rhetoric Meets Reality', in Oriol Costa et al. (eds.) EU Foreign Policy in a Fragmenting International Order, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 55-83

Additional Readings (Optional) on CFSP (including enlargement) CSDP in light of the Russia-Ukraine War:

6. Antoaneta Dimitrova, Seda Gürkan and Joachim A. Koops (2025) Stuck on the stairway of change: the EU's enlargement and security and defence policies post 2022. *West European Politics*, 1–27. Available online https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01402382.2025.2539010

Additional Readings (Optional) on European defence developments and the financial implications (including opportunity costs on, e.g., the welfare state)

7. Daniel Fiott (2026) Europe's Rearmament Dilemmas, *Current History,* March 2026
8. Guntram Wolff et al. (2025) The Governance and Funding of European Rearmament, Brussels: Bruegel – available online at https://www.bruegel.org/policy-brief/governance-and-funding-european-rearmament

Strongly Recommended for understanding what is needed for Europe to defend itself in terms of financial and military capacities: the so-called "Kiel Report"

9. Alex Burilkov et al. (2025) 'Fit for War by 2030? European Rearmament Efforts vis-à-vis Russia', Kiel Institute for the World Economy, June 2025, available online at https://www.bruegel.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/Fit%20for%20war%20by%202030%20report.pdf

Additional Readings (optional) on Russia's War Economy:

10. Julian Cooper (2025) Preparing for a Fourth Year of War: Military Spending in Russia's Budget for 2025, Stockholm: SIPRI

Primary Documents (for information)

1. European Commission (2025) White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6d5db69-e0ab-4bec-9dc0-3867b4373019_en?filename=White%20paper%20for%20European%20defence%20–%20Readiness%202030.pdf
2. Sauli Niinistö (2024) Safer Together: Strengthening Europe's Civilian and Military Preparedness and Readiness - Report by Sauli Niinistö, former President of the Republic of Finland, In his capacity as Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission, available online at https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5bb2881f-9e29-42f2-8b77-8739b19d047c_en?filename=2024_Niinisto-report_Book_VF.pdf
3. European Commission (n.d.) The European Defence Industry Programme at a glance, available online at https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edip-dedicated-programme-defence_en
4. European Commission - Acting on defence to protect Europeans (ReArm Europe) - https://commission.europa.eu/topics/defence/future-european-defence_en
5. European Commission (n.d.) EDIRPA | Procuring together defence capabilities - https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edirpa-addressing-capability-gaps_en
6. Information on Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) - https://www.pesco.europa.eu
7. European Commission (n.d.) European Defence Fund, available at https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/european-defence-fund-edf-official-webpage-european-commission_en
8. European Defence Agency (n.d.) Coordinated Annual Review of Defence (CARD), available online at https://eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/EU-defence-initiatives/coordinated-annual-review-on-defence-(card)
9. Council of the European Union (n.d.) Sanctions against Russia - https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-russia/

1. December 31, 2025, available online at https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/media/xv5jn5nx/programme-of-the-danish-eu-presidency-2025.pdf (section on Foreign Affairs)

Week 3 (Monday, 13 April 2026)

Caught Between Effective Multilateralism, Global Governance and Geopolitics: The European Union's Relations with International Organisations

This Module will consist of 2 parts:

- Part 1 will be a lecture, providing you an overview of the Eu's Foreign Policy goal of 'effective multilateralism', its cooperation with International Organisations (particularly) the UN and the (declining) approach to global governance
- Part 2 will be a guest lecture by **Ambassador Mika-Markus Leinonen** – European External Action Service Ambassador to the OPCW and other Hague-based International Organisations and former director for civilian crisis management

Readings:

Two Debate pieces on What Europe and the West can or cannot do in relation to the changing international order, global power competition and in relations with the 'Global South'**(compulsory)** and:

1. Alexander Stubb (2026) 'The West's Last Chance: How to Build a new Global Order before it is too Late', *Foreign Affairs,* January/February 2026, Vol. 105, No. 1, pp. 104 – 116.
2. Kishore Mahbubani (2026) 'The Dream Palace of the West: Why the Old Order Is Gone for Good', *Foreign Affairs,* March/April 2026, Vol. 105, No.2, pp. 165-169 (RESPONSE To Stubb piece above)

Background Reading on the EU's relations with core international organisations (esp. UN, NATO) in a changing international order **(compulsory)**

3. Jan Wouters (2025) Can the European Union Save the International Legal Order? In Nicholas Sowels et al. (eds) The European Union in an Illiberal World, *Global Policy,* pp 15-20. Avaliable HERE.
4. Carla Montelone (2019) 'The United Nations and the European Union', Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politic (11 pages)
5. European Union and United Nations (2025) 'UN-EU Partnership on Peace and Security : 2025-2028 Joint Priorities', unpublished primary source
6. United Nations General Assembly (2025) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese Gaza genocide: a collective crime, available online at https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/492 **(also a key reading for Session Week 7 on the EU's Promotion of Human Rights)**

7. Amnesty International (2026) 'Global: European states must retract outrageous attacks on UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese', available online at https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2026/02/european-states-must-retract-attacks-francesca-albanese/
8. Tim Bosch and Mechthild Becker. "America's Estranged Relationship with the United Nations: Europe's Search for a Response ." *DGAP Memo 14 (2026)*. German Council on Foreign Relations. February 2026. https://doi.org/10.60823/DGAP-26-43266-en.
9. Jolyon Howorth (2025) European Defence and NATO: From Competition to Cooperation to Replacement? Journal of Common Market Studies, Vol 63., pp. 156-168
10. Giuseppe Spatafora (2026) The Union, the Star and the Eagle: EU-NATO Cooperation under Trump 2.0, EUISS Brief March 2026, Paris: European Union Institute for Security Studies – available online at https://www.iss.europa.eu/publications/briefs/union-star-and-eagle-eu-nato-cooperation-under-trump-20

Recommended Further Reading (in preparation for the Guest Lecture) – optional :

On EU-ICC Cooperation

1. European Union (2006/2011) Various agreements between the EU and ICC on support and assistance – available online at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/agreement-between-the-eu-and-the-international-criminal-court-icc.html
2. Netherlands Helsinki Committee (2025) EU Should Defend the ICC available online at https://www.nhc.nl/eu-should-defend-the-icc/ (Short NGO appeal statement)
3. Meijers Committee (2025) The obligations of the EU and its Member States to prevent impunity for core international crimes, in particular when ICC suspects are present on EU territory, Commentary, available online at https://www.commissie-meijers.nl/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/CM2510-Meijers-Committe-comment-on-preventing-impunity-of-ICC-suspects.pdf
4. Michelle Caianiello (2025) 'International Judicial Cooperation and the EU Principle of Mutual Recognition – towards a Convergence of Systems?' available online at https://brill.com/edcollchap-oa/book/9789004705791/BP000010.xml?srsltid=AfmBOopgMMPJr0RO1bBjNrqxrbI_SL_sCxJxqeFXiNvSAqqOW3WUo-B0&body=previewPdf-133836 (example on successful EU-ICC cooperation in the case of Russia-Ukraine war)

On EU-OPCW Cooperation

5. European External Action Service (2024) Chemical weapons: the European Union and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons step up cooperation, available online at https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/chemical-weapons-european-union-and-organisation-prohibition-chemical-weapons-step-cooperation_en

Week 4 (Monday, 20 April 2026)

MIDTERM EXAMS

Exam: 09:00-11:00 (Spui building, 2C.02)
Exam: 09:00-11:30 (Wijnhaven, for students with extra facilities).

(Monday, 27 April) – Reading and Study Week

Please use this week for catching up on all the readings and read the following in-depth report (that will be extremely helpful across major policy fields):

1. Barbara Lippert and Stefan Mair (eds.) 'With, Without, Against Washington: Redefining Europe's Relations With the United States', SWP Research Paper, Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, March 2026, available online at https://www.swp-berlin.org/publications/products/research_papers/2026RP05_With_Without_Washington.pdf

We will revisit this report also in Week 6

Week 5 (Monday, 4 May 2026)

The European Union, Energy (In)Dependencies and Climate Change: Between Sustainable Energy Transitions and Planetary Security

In the module of Week 5, we will explore the interlinkages between the EU as an actor in global climate policies, the tensions this creates with energy policies and dependencies, the strive towards energy independence and the environmental-economic dimensions of planetary security.

Readings:

Background Reading **(Compulsory)**

1. John Vogler (2023) 'The Challenge of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change', in Hill/Smith/Vanhoonacker (eds.) International Relations and the European Union, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th edition, pp 67– 90
2. Caspar Hobhouse (2025) 'Reimagining European Energy Security: Towards a whole-of-system approach', Paris: EUISS, Brief 6/2025
3. Matteo Mandelli (2025) 'Implementing Just Transition Efforts across the EU: From decarbonisation to eco-social policies', in Ekaterina Domorenok et al. (eds) The Eco-Social Polity? Theoretical Conceptual and Empirical Issues, Bristol: Bristol University Press, pp. 240 - 253
4. Loyle Campbell (2026) 'European Energy Security Amid Blackmail, Dependency, and Dominance', DGAP Memo, Berlin: German Council on Foreign Relations, available online at https://dgap.org/en/research/publications/european-energy-security-amid-blackmail-dependency-and-dominance
5. Beatrice Moro, Lorena Stella Martin, Giovanni D'Amico (2026) 'The Green Deal under Attack: US influence and the Struggle for European Autonomy', ECCO, available online at https://eccoclimate.org/the-green-deal-under-attack-us-influence-and-the-struggle-for-european-autonomy/

Further Resources:

- **Information page by the European Parliament on the 'Green Deal':** https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20200618STO81513/green-deal-key-to-a-climate-neutral-and-sustainable-eu

- **An in-depth report on the challenges of implementing the Green Deal – case studies of Sweden and Estonia**: Kappe, K., Mikaelsson, M.A., & Krustok, I. (2025). *The EU Green Deal in turbulent times: insights from the EU Green Policy Tracker from Sweden and Estonia.* SEI Discussion Brief. Stockholm Environment Institute, Stockholm, available online:

https://www.sei.org/publications/eu-green-deal-turbulent-times-eu-green-policy-tracker-sweden-estonia/

- **World Meteorological Institute (2026) State of the Global Climate –** available online at **https://wmo.int/publication-series/state-of-global-climate/state-of-global-climate-2025**

Week 6 (Monday 11 May 2026)

The European Union, Technology and Security (AI, Critical Raw Materials, EU and Big Tech)

&

Guest Lecture on the Future of Transatlantic Relations by Dr. Dominik Tolksdorf

The Module of Week 5 will consist of 2 parts:

- In Part 1 we will examine the EU's role in the fields of technology and security – which includes the challenges of governing (and harnessing) AI, dealing with critical raw materials and the influence of US big tech on the EU and the EU's attempts of regulating the sector
- Part 2 will be a guest lecture by **Dr. Dominik Tolksdorf** – specialist in Transatlantic Relations on the current and future in EU-US relations. There is a wide range of background readings for this topic and I also strongly recommend the optional

Readings:

Background Reading on EU and Tech to be announced on Brightspace

Background Reading on Transatlantic Relations (**Compulsory)**

1. Michael Smith and Rebecca Steffenson (2023) The EU and USA: Competitive Cooperation in a Turbulent World', in Hill, Smith, Vanhoonacker, pp. 372 – 399
2. Majda Ruge (2026) One Battle After Another: Factional Struggles and the Making of Trump's Foreign Policy, Berlin: European Council on Foreign Relations, 30 pages
3. Dominik Tolksdorf (2025) Navigating a Strategic Dilemma: Germany's Defense Procurement amid Transatlantic Uncertainty, Washington/Berlin: Heinrich Boell Foundation
4. Riccardo Alcaro (2025) 'The Roots of US Right-Wing Hostility toward Europe', Rome: Istituto Affari Internazionali, available online at https://www.iai.it/en/publications/c05/roots-us-right-wing-hostility-toward-europe

Additional Background Reading on European Dependence on US:

5. Juan Mejino-López and Guntram B. Wolff (2026). Europe's dependence on US foreign military sales: evidence for policy makers from a new database. *Defence and Peace Economics*, 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1080/10242694.2026.2647243

Additional Primary Sources (optional):

6. National Security Strategy of the United States – available online at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf
7. National Defense Strategy – available online at https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jan/23/2003864773/-1/-1/0/2026-NATIONAL-DEFENSE-STRATEGY.PDF

Additional Reading (Compulsory to revisit the SWP Report already introduced during reading week – see above) on a variety of key issues of how Europe needs to autonomize from the US across core policy field :

8. Barbara Lippert and Stefan Mair (eds.) 'With, Without, Against Washington: Redefining Europe's Relations With the United States', SWP Research Paper, Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, March 2026, available online at https://www.swp-berlin.org/publications/products/research_papers/2026RP05_With_Without_Washington.pdf

In case of interest, you can also find here the link to **'Project 2025',** which is recommended reading for anyone trying to understand the administration's organised approach for the Second Trump administration – prepared meticulously by an alliance of centre-right-leaning think tanks

Heritage Foundation (2023) Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise – Project 2025 Presidential Transition Project, available online at https://static.heritage.org/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf

Week 7 (Monday 18 May 2026)

The EU, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Justice
&
EU-China Relations
&
Future of the EU's Role in Security and Global Affairs

The final module consists of three parts:

- Part 1 will explore the EU's role as a promoter of democracy, human rights (and the rule of law) and the broader aim of 'global justice' – including internal challenges and how they intersect with external challenges
- Part 2 will delve into the topic of EU-China relations in the realm of security and global affairs (student preference)
- The session will finish with a wrap up of the course and final reflections with course participants on the future of the EU's role in security and global affairs

Readings:

Background Reading on the EU Democracy, Human Rights and Global Justice **(Compulsory)**

1. Helene Sjursen (2023) 'Principles in EU Foreign Policy: How Distinctive?', in Hill, Smith, Vanhoonacker, pp. 425-442
2. United Nations General Assembly (2025) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese Gaza genocide: a collective crime, available online at https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/492 **(revisit this reading from Week 3).**
3. Maurizio Carbone (2023) 'The European Union and International Development: Evolving Tensions and Contested Transformations', in Hill, Smith, Vanhoonacker, pp. 236-258
4. Human Rights Watch (2026) 'European Union' – in World Report 2026, available online at https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2026/country-chapters/european-union
5. Jeremy Cliffe et al. (2025) 'Rise to the challengers: Europe's populist parties and its foreign policy future', Berlin: European Council on Foreign Relations, available online at https://ecfr.eu/publication/rise-to-the-challengers-europes-populist-parties-and-its-foreign-policy-future/
6. Rosa Balfour et al. (2025) 'The European Radical Right in the Age of Trump 2.0', Brussels: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, available online at https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/09/the-european-radical-right-in-the-age-of-trump-20

Additional Background Reading – on the rule of law within the EU (optional - browse)

- Liberties Rule of Law Report (2026) – a very hefty (800 pages) in-depth report on the state of the rule of law across the EU – worth skimming through and to read the summary here: https://www.liberties.eu/en/stories/liberties-rule-of-law-report-2026-press-release/45627

Additional Background reading on recent shifts in EU development policies:

- Lukas Schlögl et al. (2026) The foundations of EU development and cooperation policies, Study for the European Parliament, available online at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2026/783609/EXAS_STU(2026)783609_EN.pdf

Background Reading on EU-China/Asia Relations (compulsory)

7. Stephan Keukeleire and Hai Yang (2023) 'Global Europe: A Pivot to Asia?', in Hill, Smith, Vanhoonacker, pp. 400-422
8. Tobias Gehrke and Nina Schmelzer (2026) 'Beijing hold'em: European cards against Chinese coercion', Berlin: European Council on Foreign Relations, available online at https://ecfr.eu/publication/beijing-holdem-european-cards-against-chinese-coercion/

Tuesday, 26 May 2026

FINAL EXAMS

Wijnhaven 2.17 & 2.19

VI. Information About the Course Lecturer

Joachim A. Koops is Chair of Security Studies and Jean Monnet Chair for the European Union's Role in Security and Global Affairs (EURISGA) at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, where he served as Scientific Director from 2019 – 2024. In addition, he is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford, UK. Previously, Joachim was the Dean of the Brussels School of Governance of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Director of the Global Governance Institute (GGI), Brussels. Joachim holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from the University of Oxford (UK), an MSc in European Politics, Economic and Law from the University of Turku, a Postgraduate Diploma/Common Professional Exam in Law from Oxford Brookes (UK), the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (LPC) from the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Kiel (Germany).

Joachim's research focuses on Global Security Governance, European foreign policy and (cyber) diplomacy and inter-organizational relations in peace and security (including peacekeeping, peacebuilding, crisis management and the responsibility to protect) with particular emphasis on the role of the European Union, NATO and United Nations. In the area of higher education policy and management, he is interested in academic reform, innovative teaching, quality assurance and the future of global education.

Since 2009, Joachim held several advisor positions at international organizations. In 2009, he served as the Lessons Learned Advisor of the Chief of Staff of the Standby High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG), in 2012 he worked at the partnership unit of the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York as well as the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS) in Brussels. In addition, he served in various capacities for the European Commission and European Parliament on core issues related to security and global affairs.

Recent publications include: The Palgrave Handbook on Cyberdiplomacy (with G. Christou, J. Burton and W. Vosse, 2025), European Approaches to Cyberdiplomacy (Special issue of Hague Journa of Diplomacy, 2025), The Oxford Handbook of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2015, with Norrie MacQueen, Thierry Tardy and Paul D. Williams), The Palgrave Handbook of Inter-organizational Relations in World Politics (Palgrave, 2017, with Rafael Biermann), European Approaches to United Nations Peacekeeping: Towards Stronger Re-engagement? (Routledge, 2018, with Giulia Tercovich), The European Union as a Diplomatic Actor (Palgrave, 2014, with Gjovalin Macaj) and Operationalising he Responsibility to Protect (Palgrave 2014, with Daniel Fiott). He published on Peacekeeping, UN rapid reaction and EU-NATO relations in journals such as International Peacekeeping, Contemporary Security Policy and European Security.

Further information and publications can be found at
https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/staffmembers/joachim-koops#tab-2