

Course Syllabus: EU Open Strategic Autonomy

Course	EU Open Strategic Autonomy
Lecturer	Donato di Carlo and Dimitri Zurstrassen
Course Description	<p>The concept of European Union (EU) Open Strategic Autonomy has gained significant prominence in recent years, notably in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the war in Ukraine and the growing rivalry between China and the USA. This course provides a comprehensive examination of the concept of EU Open Strategic Autonomy, delving into its historical and geopolitical context, practical implications, and future prospects. Participants will explore the evolving dynamics of European security and defence, energy, as well as EU industrial and trade policies. Through a combination of student presentations and seminars, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the concept of EU Open Strategic Autonomy, its implications for the EU's role in the global arena and its relationship with Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>Total course duration: 20 hours (10 sessions, 2 hours per session).</p> <p>Session's format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hour 1: Students' presentations on the assigned compulsory readings; • Hour 2: Interactive seminar discussion.
Primary References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sieglinde Ostöhl and Dirk de Bièvre, <i>The Trade Policy of the European Union</i>. Red Globe Press, 2018; • Thomas Christiansen, Emil Kirchner, Uwe Wissenbach, <i>The European Union and China</i>. Palgrave Macmillan, 2019; • Mario Damen, "EU strategic autonomy 2013-2023: From concept to capacity", European Parliament Research Service, 2022; • Susanne Lütz, Tobias Leeg, Daniel Otto, Vincent Woyames Dreher, <i>The European Union as a Global Actor. Trade, Finance and Climate Policy</i>. Springer, 2022; • Jean-Christophe Defraigne, Edoardo Traversa, Jan Wouters and Dimitri Zurstrassen, <i>EU Industrial Policy in the Multipolar Economy</i>. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.
Course Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To present and analyse the evolution of world geoeconomic and geopolitical dynamics since the 2007-2008 economic and financial crisis in a long-term political economy perspective;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a detailed understanding of European Union policies labelled under the concept of the search for open strategic autonomy. In particular, we will analyse what it entails and means for EU international relations, European economies and businesses; To examine the consequences of these EU policies on the relationship between the bloc and Mediterranean countries.
Prerequisite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A general knowledge of EU law and political system is desirable; A basic knowledge of the principles of economics and political economy is desirable.
Teaching Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student presentations to acquire foundational knowledge through compulsory readings; Interactive seminar discussions for group discussions and critical thinking.
Assessment Method and Grading Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active participation in the seminars (20% of the final grade); Student's presentations (40% of the final grade); Final oral examination (40% of the final grade).

Extended Course Plan and References
<p>Session 1: Setting the scene: what do we mean by EU Open Strategic autonomy/sovereignty ?</p> <p>The Von der Leyen Commission has placed the development of European Union's open strategic autonomy at the heart of its mandate. At the same time, since the beginning of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, EU leaders also refer to the objective of building a “European sovereignty”. In this session we will define these concepts, their differences and what they actually mean for open economies like those of the EU.</p> <p>Introduction of the course, frontal lecture and assignment of student presentations (1 hour) Seminar discussion (1 hour)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patricia Nouveau and Dimitri Zurstrassen, “Industrial partnerships and EU industrial sovereignty”, LUHNIP working paper, 2024. Mario Damen, “EU strategic autonomy 2013-2023: From concept to capacity”, European Parliamentary Service, 2022. <p><u>Video:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Egerton (King’s College), “Using, making or innovating : what might industrial sovereignty refer to and why might it matter ? ”, 1 June 2023 https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=233&v=W0-zO3PLfzg&source_ve_path=MzY4NDIsMjg2NjY&feature=emb_logo

Session 2: Historical background: EU policies for openness and market competition in the long run (1950's-2010's)

This session will analyse the historical development of EU economic and external relations policies from the origins of the European Communities to the 2007-2008 global economic and financial crisis to understand current policies aimed at building an "open European strategic autonomy".

Readings:

- Dirk De Bièvre and Arlo Poletti « The EU in trade policy. From regime shaper to status quo power » in Gerda Falkner and Patrick Müller, *EU Policies in a Global Perspective: Shaping or Taking International Regimes?*, Routledge, 2014.
- Laurent Warlouzet, "Economic integration at the centre: construction of a Single Market, and the rise of competition policy" in Brigitte Leucht, Katja Seidel and Laurent Warlouzet, *Reinventing Europe: The History of the European Union, 1945 to the Present*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023.

Session 3: The changing geopolitical environment since the 2010s: the rise of Chinese and US tech competition

This session will analyse the world geopolitical changes since the 2007-2008 global economic crisis, with particular emphasis on the rise of non-market economies and increasing competition from US digital giants.

Readings:

- Thomas Christiansen, Emil J. Kirchner and Uwe Wissenbach, "The Evolution Of The EU-China Relationship" in Thomas Christiansen, Emil J. Kirchner and Uwe Wissenbach, *The European Union and China*, Red Globe Press, 2018.
- Patricia Nouveau, "European Union's digital governance versus United States' digital dominance", *Revue de la Faculté de droit de l'Université de Liège*, 2020/2, Larcier, 2020.
- Jean-Christophe Defraigne, "China's industrial policy: the visible hand of the party-state to catch up by any means necessary" in Jean-Christophe Defraigne et. al., *EU Industrial Policy in the Multipolar Economy*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.

Session 4: The changing geoeconomic environment since the 2010s: the crisis of the multilateral trade system and the rise of global protectionism

This session will analyse the developments in the trade policies of the European Union's main economic partners and their impact on the multilateral trading system. It will also examine the European response to these challenges, particularly from the point of view of negotiating new generation trade agreements and reinforcing the use of trade defence instruments.

Readings:

- Sophie Meunier and Kalypso Nicolaidis, "The Geopolitization of European Trade and Investment Policy", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 57, 2019, pp. 103-113.
- Mike Smith, "The EU, the US and the crisis of contemporary multilateralism" in Marianne Riddervold and Akasemi Newsome, *Transatlantic Relations in Terms of Uncertainty. Crises and EU-US Relations*, Routledge, 2019.
- Bernard Hoekman and Petros C. Mavroidis, "WTO Reform: Back to the Past to Build for the Future" in *Global Policy*, 2021, pp. 5-12.

Session 5: The growing of global security threat and the need for EU common defence policy

In the challenging geopolitical environment of the 2010 and 2020's, marked notably by Brexit, the US military disengagement in Europe and the context of the war in Ukraine, the European Union reinforced its policies in the field of defence and security to strengthen its strategic autonomy. The aim of this session is to analyse the reasons for the strengthening of these policies, the issue of the relationship between the EU and NATO and the future of these policies.

Readings:

- Samuel Faure, "EU defence industrial policy: from market-making to market-correcting" in Jean-Christophe Defraigne et. al., *EU Industrial Policy in the Multipolar Economy*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.
- Jolyon Howorth, "Security and defence policy" in Samuel Faure and Christian Lequesne, *The Elgar Companion to the European Union*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023.
- Daniel Fiott and Luis Simón, "EU Defence After Versailles: An Agenda For the Future (PE702.604 ed.)", European Parliament, 2023.

Session 6: The new geopolitics of energy, the challenge of green transition and their impact for the EU

With the intensification of the fight against climate change and geopolitical tensions, particularly with Russia, the European Union has strengthened its energy policy and instruments over the last 10 years. This session aims to analyse recent geopolitical changes and developments in the global energy markets and their impact on European policies and on relations between the bloc and Mediterranean countries.

Readings:

- Thomas Pellerin-Carlin, "The European Energy Union" in Rafael Leal-Arcas and Jan Wouters, *Research Handbook on EU Energy Law and Policy*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017.
- Marco Siddi, "Climate change and the green transition: the new geopolitical conundrum" and "EU-Russian energy relations amidst war and the green transition: a paradigm change?" in Marco Siddi, *European Energy Politics. The Green Transition and EU-Russia Energy Relations*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023.

Session 7: The disruption of global supply chains and the new EU strategic partnerships

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the European Union's dependence on imports from third countries for critical goods essential to its economy and population, such as pharmaceuticals and semiconductors. With the intensification of global geoeconomic competition, European Union's dependence on raw materials such as lithium and cobalt, which are essential for the digital and environmental transition, have become a major problem for the EU. This fact led the bloc to promote the relocalisation of strategic industries and diversify its trading partners for the supply of strategic goods and raw materials. This session will analyse EU policies to achieve these goals.

Readings:

- Maksym Chepeliev et. al., "Pandemic, Climate Mitigation and Reshoring. Impacts on a Changing Global Economy on Trade, Incomes, and Poverty", Policy Research paper, World Bank, 2022.
- Eugénia C. Heldt, "Europe's Global Gateway: A New Instruments of Geopolitics", *Politics and Governance*, 2023.

Session 8: EU Open Strategic Autonomy and green industrial policy

The acceleration of climate change and the global drive to adopt strategies to decarbonise national economies prompted the EU to adopt the European Green Deal in December 2019. This growth strategy sets a carbon neutral target for the EU by 2050 and aims to fulfil the commitments on sustainable development laid down in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. In the context of the fears of de-industrialisation of the European economy as a result of Chinese and US interventionist trade and industrial policies, and the pursuit of EU's Open Strategic Autonomy, this agenda poses many challenges. This session will analyse the development of European environmental policies and how they fit into the EU's quest for Open Strategic Autonomy.

Readings:

- John A. Mathews, The greening of industrial policy, in Ha-Joon Chang et. al., *The Oxford Handbook of EU Industrial Policy*, Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Timur Ergen and Luuk Schmitz, "The sunshine problem: Climate change and managed decline in the European Union", MPIfG discussion paper 2023/6, 2023.
- Dimitri Zurstrassen, EU industrial policies for the digital and ecological transition from the origins to the Von der Leyen Commission, LUHNIP working paper, 2024.

Session 9: EU's Open Strategic Autonomy and the relations with Mediterranean countries in the field of security and migration

The military disengagement of the United States from several regions around the Mediterranean and the geopolitical upheavals of recent years in the Middle East and North Africa have led the European Union to strengthen its role as guardian of security in these countries and to modify its migration policy. It is a question of no longer being dependent on certain third countries - for the management of migratory flows and the defence of European values - and increasing cooperation with different regions to reduce conflicts. This session will analyse the geo-political changes in the countries around the Mediterranean and recently adopted EU policies to increase its Open Strategic Autonomy in the fields of migration and security.

Readings:

- Roberto Roccu and Benedetta Voltolini, "Framing and reframing the EU's engagement with the Mediterranean: Examining the security-stability nexus before and after the Arab uprisings", *Mediterranean Politics*, 23, 1, 2018.
- Christopher Hill, "Migration: The Dilemmas of External Relations" in Christopher Hill et.al., *International Relations and the European Union*, Oxford University Press, 2023, pp. 327-352.

Session 10: EU Digital Strategic Autonomy: state of play and future trends

The intensification of the China-US tech war, the growing influence of foreign tech companies, and the Union's lagging behind in the digital sector, as well as the development of breakthrough technologies, had led the EU to develop in the last years a more assertive digital policy. The recently adopted Digital Market and Services Act (DMA and DSA), the AI Act and Chips Act represent important regulations to achieve the objective of open strategic autonomy in the digital domain. In this session, we will analyse current EU policies to strengthen its digital sovereignty, its challenges and future trends.

Readings:

- Patricia Nouveau, “Falling behind and in between the United States and China. Can the European Union drive its digital transformation away from industrial path dependency?” in Jean-Christophe Defraigne et. al., *EU Industrial Policy in the Multipolar Economy*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.
- Anu Bradford, chapters 7, 8, 9 of *Digital Empires. The Global Battle to Regulate Technology*, Oxford University Press, 2023.
- Maria Savona, “The governance of artificial intelligence: Harnessing opportunities and mitigating challenges” in *Research Policy*, 53(3), 2024.