

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 351: Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy, 6 ECTS / 3 KU
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate
	Term	Spring 2026
	Instructor	Ariz Huseynov
	E-mail:	ahuseynov@khazar.org , ariz.huseynov@gmail.com
	Phone:	Email only
	Classroom/hours	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus), Tuesday
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	English Language Skills	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core readings:</p> <p>Cornell, S. E. (2011). <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i>. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.</p> <p>Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi. (2016). <i>Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasətinin əsas istiqamətləri (1991–2016)</i>. Bakı: Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi.</p> <p>Georg Sørensen, Jørgen Møller, Robert Jackson, Introduction to International Relations. Theories and Approaches, Oxford University Press (2022)</p>	
Course outline	<p>This course examines the historical evolution, conceptual foundations, and contemporary practice of Azerbaijan's foreign policy within the broader frameworks of International Relations theory. It begins by introducing the methodological distinction between empirical inquiry and theoretical explanation in Foreign Policy Analysis. The course then historicizes Azerbaijan's diplomatic tradition through the study of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918–1920), before moving to questions of national identity, language, and discourse in shaping foreign policy.</p> <p>Subsequent weeks analyze the Karabakh conflict as the central organizing priority of Azerbaijan's foreign policy and examine Azerbaijan's relations with Russia, Turkey, Iran, the United States, and the European Union. These cases are systematically evaluated through competing theoretical lenses, including Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Post-colonial and Decolonial theory, and Small State theory. The course concludes with an assessment of energy diplomacy as a strategic instrument of foreign policy.</p>	
Course objectives	<p>The course aims to provide students with a theoretically grounded and historically informed understanding of Azerbaijan's foreign policy. It seeks to train students to move beyond descriptive accounts and instead apply International Relations theories to explain Azerbaijan's external behavior. Students will critically examine how identity, power asymmetry, regional</p>	

	geopolitics, small-state constraints, and global hierarchies shape foreign policy choices. The course also aims to develop students' ability to assess competing theoretical interpretations of the same empirical case and to engage critically with academic and policy literature.		
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between empirical and theoretical approaches in Foreign Policy Analysis. • Apply major IR theories to Azerbaijan's foreign policy cases. • Analyze the historical foundations of Azerbaijan's diplomacy. • Evaluate the Karabakh conflict within legal, geopolitical, and theoretical frameworks. • Assess Azerbaijan's bilateral relations through competing analytical perspectives. • Construct structured, theory-based written and oral arguments supported by evidence. 		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm evaluation	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30
	Presentation		10
	Review Essay		10
	Quiz/Seminar	Every week we will have oral quiz on the week's topic with random students. So, everyone should be prepared.	10
	Final exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	Total		100
Policy	<p>You are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attend classes on a regular basis as the classes are conducted in a combined lecture/seminar format where students should <u>play an active part</u>. - read the assigned and suggested readings before you come to class - engage actively in classroom discussions - offer thoughtful and informed classroom presentations and written work - submit all your assignments on time - follow assignments closely and carefully. <p>Class attendance:</p> <p>Students are required to comply with the attendance policy of Khazar University. Full-time students are expected to attend all classes unless they are sick or have the permission of the instructor (<i>approved absence</i>). A student must submit an absence request in anticipation of an absence from the course. In case he/she fails to do so, his absence will be considered unapproved. Specifically, to be eligible for taking exams, students must not miss more than 20% of class hours (<i>unapproved absences</i>). Otherwise, the</p>		

student can take the exam only with the approval of the School Dean. Continuing unapproved absences or lack of participation may lead to withdrawal from the course.

Academic misconduct

Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognize and uphold high standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The following acts are examples of academic dishonesty, therefore are strictly forbidden and will, if proven, be penalized:

- plagiarism,
- cheating,
- unauthorized collaboration,
- falsification,
- multiple submissions.

On plagiarism:

Plagiarism is unethical and an offence under the University regulations. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations relating to plagiarism and cheating in examinations.

Plagiarism is copying other people's work without proper attribution. The students committing plagiarism and the students providing materials for plagiarizing will automatically receive a zero (0) for the assignment. Students must always indicate that they used someone else's words and ideas if they have done so, by using quotation marks and mentioning the source in the text or a footnote. A bibliography must also follow after the end of your essays.

Rules of Professional Conduct

The students shall behave in the way to create favorable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorized discussions and unethical behavior are strictly prohibited. Classroom behavior that seriously interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to benefit from the course program will not be tolerated. When a student's behavior in a class is so seriously disruptive as to compel immediate action, the instructor has the authority to remove a student from the class on an interim basis, pending an informal hearing on the behavior.

Tentative Schedule

Date/Day (subject to change if necessary, on holidays)	Topics	Readings
1.	Introduction	No reading material assigned but <u>get familiar with the Syllabus.</u>
2.	Conceptualizing Foreign Policy of Azerbaijan.	Compulsory

	<p>Empirical Inquiry and Theory in Foreign Policy Analysis: Can We Study Azerbaijan’s Foreign Policy Objectively?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georg Sørensen, Jørgen Møller, Robert Jackson Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches [8 ed.] Oxford University Press (2022), Chapter 10: Foreign Policy Recommended • Balçı, Ali, “Diskors ve Pratik Olarak Dış Politika”, Uluslararası İlişkiler, Cilt 4, Sayı 15 (Güz 2007), s. 67-87. • Stephen M. Walt, “Theory and Policy in International Relations: Some Personal Reflections,” Yale Journal of International Affairs 7 (2012).
<p>3.</p>	<p>Foreign Policy of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic</p>	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svante E. Cornell, Azerbaijan Before Soviet Rule, in. Svante E. Cornell. Azerbaijan Since Independence, 2011 • Jamil P. Hasanli, “The Republic of Azerbaijan in International Relations System (1918-1920)”, in • Alexandros Petersen & Fariz Ismailzade ed., Azerbaijan in Global Politics Crafting Foreign Policy, (Baku: Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, 2009), pp. 25-66. Recommended • Cəmil Həsənli, Bakının qurtuluşu: 100 il sonradan tarixə retrospektiv baxış, Baku Research Institute, https://bakuresearchinstitute.org/az/the-liberation-of-baku-a-retrospective-view-after-a-century/ • Tadeuș Svetoxovski – Kommunistlərin hakimiyyəti

		<p>ələ keçirməsi, https://milliyyet.info/tercume/tadeus-svetoxovski-kommunistlerin-hakimiyyeti-ele-kecirmesi-2/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zaur Qasımov, Azərbaycan Demokratik Respublikası (1918-1920): Yaranması, əsas mərhələlər və irsi • Film, Əbədi Ezamiyyət, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMAjJrtEOg • Üzeyir Hacıbəyli, Nuru Paşa həzrətləri şərəfinə böyük bir ziyafət, “Azərbaycan” qəzeti, 1918, №37, https://milliyyet.info/tarix/nuru-pasa-h%9%99zr%9%99tl%9%99ri-s%9%99r%9%99fin%9%99-boyuk-bir-ziyaf%9%99t-uzeyir-hacib%9%99yli/ • Cəmil Həsənlı, Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin Xarici Siyasəti (1918-1920). Bakı, 2009 • Nəsib Nəsibzadə, AZƏRBAYCANIN XARICI SIYASƏTI (1918-1920), 1996 • Cəmil Həsənlı, Tarixi şəxsiyyətin tarixi: Əlimərdan bəy Topçubaşov, ADA Universiteti, 2013 • Yusif Vəzir Çəmənzəminli, Xarici Siyasətimiz, Bakı, 1993 • Əlimərdan bəy Topçubaşov, Qafqaz Azərbaycanı Nümayəndə Heyətinin Sülh Konfransından Tələbləri, Qanun Nəşriyyatı • Əlimərdan bəy Topçubaşov, Doğma Azərbaycanın
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		<p>Mənafeyini Qoruyacağımız, Qanun Nəşriyyatı</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cəmil Həsənlı, Foreign Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan: The Difficult Road to Western Integration, 1918-1920, Routledge, 2015 • Cəmil Həsənlı, История дипломатии Азербайджанской Республики. В 3-х т. Т. 1. Внешняя политика Азербайджанской Демократической Республики, Флинта, 2010 • Cəmil Həsənlı, Русская революция и Азербайджан: трудный путь к независимости. 1917-1920, Флинта, 2011 • Azərbaycan Respublikası beynəlxalq münasibətlər sistemində, 1918-1920. Bakı, 1993 • Shabnam Yusifova, “The Recognition of The Independence of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic In Paris Peace Conference And The Attitude Of Iran”, Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, Vol 5 No 19, 2014 • Elchin Shahinovich Huseynov and Tunku Mohar Tunku Mohd. Mokhtar, “A Critique of Tadeusz Swietochowski’s Works on the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920) under the Prism of Edward Said’s “Orientalism”
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<p>4.</p>	<p>History, Language and National Identity, in International Relations: Through the Words of Foreign Ministers: A Constructivism case study?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews of Foreign Ministers, Təmas Xətti, İctimai TV, https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpGSr4jT4hZpvVU-mHP8Ctfw4i9bB0IOI • Rahman Badalov, Standing up for Azerbaijan: why a pre-World War I intellectual remains important for Azerbaijan today, Azerbaijan in the World - Volume II 2009, https://biweekly.ada.edu.az/upload/Azerbaijan%20in%20the%20World%20-%20Volume%20II%202009.pdf • Yilmaz, H. (2013). <i>The Soviet Union and the construction of Azerbaijani national identity in the 1930s. Iranian Studies</i>, 46(4), 511–533 • Swietochowski, T. (1985) <i>Russian Azerbaijan, 1905-1920: The Shaping of National Identity in a Muslim Community</i> (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK). • Fariz Ismailzade, The new meaning of January 20th in Azerbaijan: a personal reflection, Azerbaijan in the World - Volume II 2009, https://biweekly.ada.edu.az/upload/Azerbaijan%20in%20the%20World%20-%20Volume%20II%202009.pdf • Rauf Garagozov, Azerbaijan reclaims its national past, Azerbaijan in the World - Volume II 2009,
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		https://biweekly.ada.edu.az/upload/Azerbaijan%20in%20the%20World%20-%20Volume%20II%202009.pdf
5.	Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy Priority: Karabakh Conflict: a postcolonial legacy?	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film nümayişi, “<i>Parts of a Circle, The Summary Film</i>”, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3yuVOK96RE • Gülşən Paşayeva, Kamal Makili-Əliyev, “Ermənistan-Azərbaycan Dağlıq Qarabağ münaqişəsinin həlli xarici siyasətin əsas prioriteti kimi”, Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətinin Əsas İstiqamətləri 1991-2016, Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi, 2017, səh. 41-94 Recommended • Bilal Dədəyev, Ceyhun Mahmudlu, Şamxal Əbilov, Qarabağ: 99 sual, Bakı, 2014 • S. Cornell, “Can America Stop a Wider War Between Armenia and Azerbaijan?”, <i>National Interest</i>, (2020) • Svante E. Cornell, The Shadow over Azerbaijan: Karabakh, in. Svante E. Cornell. Azerbaijan Since Independence, 2011 • Tomas de Vaal - Qarabağ: Ermənistan və Azərbaycan sülh və savaş yollarında, Bakı, 2008 • Tomas Qoltz, Azərbaycan Gündəliyi, TEAS Press, 2019 • Günel Mövlüd, Düşərgə (roman-bioqrafiya), 2020 • Hikmət Babaoğlu, Dünya Siyasəti və Beynəlxalq Münasibətlər, Dərslik, 2010

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adil Baguirov, “Nagorno-Karabakh: Basis and Reality of Soviet-era Legal and Economic Claims used to justify the Armenia-Azerbaijan War”, Caucasian Review of International • Məmməd Səid Ordubadi. Qanlı illər. 1905-1906-cı illərdə Qafqazda baş verən erməni-müsəlman davasının tarixi. Bakı, 1991 • BBC Hard Talk Interview with Pashinyan and Mnsakanyan • BMT TŞ Qətnamələri Ayaz Rzayev, No, Kosovo Is Not a Precedent for Nagorno-Karabakh, The National Interest, 2020
6.	Azerbaijan’s Foreign Policy Priority: Karabakh Conflict II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svante E. Cornell, The Shadow over Azerbaijan: Karabakh, in. Svante E. Cornell. Azerbaijan Since Independence, 2011 • Ayaz Rzayev, No, Kosovo Is Not a Precedent for Nagorno-Karabakh, The National Interest, 2020 • Hakan Yavuz, Vasif Huseynov, The Second Karabakh War: Russia vs. Turkey? Middle East Policy, 2021
7.	Azerbaijan - Russia Relations: Two Sovereigns, post-colonial or decolonial relations, Realist Power Politics or a Culture of Anarchy?	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svante E. Cornell, Russia, the Resurgent Imperialist, in. Svante E. Cornell. Azerbaijan Since Independence, 2011 • Fərhad Məmmədov, “Azərbaycan–Rusiya münasibətləri: 1991-2016”, Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətinin Əsas İstiqamətləri 1991-2016,

		<p>Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi, 2017, səh. 159-224</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariz Hüseynov, “Azərbaycan – Rusiya münasibətləri. Müstəqillikdən sonrakı ilk 10 il”, Strateji Təhlil, SAM, Say 3, 2011, səh. 235-246
8.	Midterm Exam	
9.	Post-Colonial / Decolonial Foreign Relations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fanon, F. (2004). <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> (R. Philcox, Trans.). New York: Grove Press. (Original work published 1961) • Seth, S. (2011). Postcolonial theory and the critique of international relations. <i>Millennium: Journal of International Studies</i>, 40(1), 167–183
10.	Azerbaijan – Turkey Relations: Realist Interests, Constructivist Identity or Liberal Interdependence?	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cavid Vəliyev, “Azərbaycan–Türkiyə münasibətləri: 1991-2016”, Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətinin Əsas İstiqamətləri 1991-2016, Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi, 2017, səh. 97-158 • Svante E. Cornell Turkey, Best Neighbor or Big Brother? in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i>, 2011 Recommended • Cornell, Svante, “Turkey and the Conflict in Nagorno Karabakh: A Delicate Balance” <i>Middle Eastern Studies</i>, vol. 34, no. 1, 1998, pp. 51–72
11.	Azerbaijan – Iran Relations: Identity and Religion or Nation States and National Interest?	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svante E. Cornell, Iran and the “Other” Azerbaijan, in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i>, 2011

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Məsiğa Məhəmmədi, “Azərbaycan–İran münasibətləri”, Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətinin Əsas İstiqamətləri 1991-2016, Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi, 2017, səh. 225-252
12.	A small State’s Foreign Policy? Balancing, Band-wagoning, Hedging Integration	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baldur Thorhallsson, “Studying small states: A review”, <i>Small States & Territories</i>, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2018, pp. 17-34 Recommended Tür, Özlem ve Salık, Nuri, “Uluslararası İlişkilerde “Küçük Devletler”: Gelişimi, Tanımı, Dış Politika ve İttifak Davranışları“, <i>Uluslararası İlişkiler</i>, Cilt 14, Sayı 53, 2017, s. 3-22
13.	Azerbaijan – USA Relations: Small State vs. Global Hegemon or Core vs Periphery or Decolonization vs. Neo-colonialism?	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuad Çıraqov, “Azərbaycan–Amerika Birləşmiş Ştatları münasibətləri: 1991-2016”, <i>Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətinin Əsas İstiqamətləri 1991-2016</i>, Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi, 2017, səh. 355-398 • Fuad Çıraqov, Tramp dövründə ABŞ-Azərbaycan münasibətləri, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHP44qzIBmQ • Svante E. Cornell, “Azerbaijan and the West”, in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i>, 2011

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Goltz, Section 907 of Freedom Support Act Article, 1996
14.	<p>Historical Evolution of Azerbaijan – EU Relations. Theorizing / Debating: Realists vs Liberals.</p>	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • İlqar Qurbanov, “Azərbaycan–Avropa İttifaqı münasibətləri”, <i>Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətinin Əsas İstiqamətləri 1991-2016</i>, Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi, 2017, səh. 315-354 • Svante E. Cornell, “Azerbaijan and the West”, in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i>, 2011 Recommended • İlham Əliyev, Avropa Birliyi bizi qəbul etsə belə üzv olmayacağıq, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xsf2pmT2hN4&fbclid=IwAR3kihp4ZnkHJgjO5kc2xDn6sxzRv23hzkeMt0XKLMYmoI3NG388pJx4KrA
15.	<p>(Foreign) Energy Policy</p>	<p>Compulsory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gülmira Rzayeva, “Azərbaycan Respublikasının enerji diplomatiyası xarici siyasətinin tərkib hissəsi kimi”, <i>Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətinin Əsas İstiqamətləri 1991-2016</i>, Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi, 2017, səh. 759-784 Recommended • Gülmira Rzayeva, “Azərbaycan dövlətinin enerji siyasəti müstəqilliyin iyirminci ildönümündə: nailiyyətlər, məqsədlər və perspektivlər”, <i>Strateji Təhlil, SAM, Say 3</i>, 2011, səh. 199-214

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariz Hüseynov, “Azərbaycan – Rusiya münasibətləri. Müstəqillikdən sonrakı ilk 10 il”, Strateji Təhlil, SAM, Say 3, 2011, səh. 235-246 • Rovshan İbrahimov, “Azerbaijan`s Energy History and Policy”, in ed. Rovshan İbrahimov, Energy and Azerbaijan: History Strategy and Cooperation, pp. 12-52
	Final exam	

Additional readings and assignments will be provided by the instructor for this course.
If necessary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.