

Identification	Subject	Foundations of National and International Security
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Program (Undergraduate, Graduate)	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2026
	Instructor	Ariz Huseynov
	Email:	ariz.huseynov@gmail.com
	Classroom/hours	Wednesday/08:30
Prerequisites	English language skills	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Textbooks and course materials	Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i>, 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023 Columba Peoples, Nick Vaughan-Williams, <i>Critical Security Studies: An Introduction</i>, Routledge, 2020 Alan Collins (ed.), <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i>, 6th ed., pp. 13–29. Oxford University Press, 2022	
Course description	This course introduces undergraduate students to the principal concepts, theoretical approaches, and contemporary debates in Security Studies. It examines how the meaning of security has evolved from a predominantly state-centred concern with military threats to a broader field encompassing political, economic, societal, identity, energy, and postcolonial dimensions. The course covers realist, liberal, Marxist, social constructivist, securitization, poststructuralist, and postcolonial approaches to security. These theoretical perspectives are applied to Azerbaijan's national security, national identity, foreign-policy positioning, relations with major powers, small-state behaviour, collective trauma, and energy security. Through engagement with academic literature, official documents, and selected literary works, students will critically assess how security threats are identified, constructed, and addressed in both national and international contexts.	
Course objectives	The course aims to: • Introduce students to the development, key concepts, and principal debates of Security Studies. • Familiarize students with mainstream and critical theoretical approaches to national and international security. • Develop students' ability to compare the assumptions, strengths, and limitations of different security theories. • Examine how historical experience, national identity, political discourse, and collective trauma influence understandings of security. • Apply theoretical approaches to Azerbaijan's National Security Concept and broader national security policy. • Analyze Azerbaijan's security challenges through the perspectives of small-state theory, hedging, and relations with regional and global powers. • Explore the relationship between energy resources, political power, foreign policy, and national security. • Encourage students to question whose security is prioritized, how threats are constructed, and what political consequences follow from particular security narratives.	

	Strengthen students' critical reading, analytical writing, argumentation, and discussion skills.		
Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to: - Define and explain the central concepts and historical evolution of Security Studies. - Distinguish between traditional, broadened, and critical understandings of security. - Describe and compare realist, liberal, Marxist, constructivist, securitization, postcolonial, and poststructuralist approaches. - Identify the assumptions, analytical contributions, and limitations of the major theories of security. - Apply competing theoretical perspectives to concrete national and international security issues. - Critically analyze the National Security Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan. - Explain how identity, discourse, historical memory, and collective trauma can shape security perceptions and policies. - Assess Azerbaijan's position and behavior through small-state, middle-power, balancing, and hedging perspectives. - Analyze the relationship between Azerbaijan's national identity formation and its contemporary understanding of security. - Evaluate the role of energy resources and energy policy in Azerbaijan's domestic politics, foreign relations, and national security. - Examine how colonial and postcolonial power relations affect the production of security knowledge and representations of threats. - Construct clear, evidence-based arguments using academic literature, policy documents, and relevant case studies.		
Teaching methods	Case analysis		x
	Group discussion		x
	Lecture		x
	Simulation		x
Evaluation Criteria	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	TBA	30
	Quizzes	Pop-up	15
	Presentation	TBA	15
	Review Article	03.12.26-10.12.26	10
	Attendance	During the semester	
	Final Exam	TBA	30
	Total		100
Class Policy	You are expected to: - 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.

Class attendance:

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 (*approved absence*).

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 **25%** of class hours (*unapproved absences*). Otherwise, the 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 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.

	Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence This course follows Khazar University’s policy on generative artificial intelligence (GAI). Partial use of GAI is permitted. Students may use GAI tools to generate initial ideas, organize information, compare perspectives, clarify difficult concepts, and improve grammar or sentence structure. However, all substantive arguments, theoretical analysis, interpretation of sources, and conclusions must be developed independently by the student. GAI-generated material may not constitute more than 25% of a submitted text. Any use of GAI must be clearly disclosed, identifying the tool and explaining how it was used. Students remain responsible for verifying all information, quotations, and references produced or suggested by GAI. Personal, confidential, examination-related, or unpublished research data must not be entered into GAI platforms. The use of GAI is prohibited during midterm and final examinations, in-class assessments, and any task for which the instructor expressly prohibits it. Undisclosed or unauthorized use, fabricated references, or presenting GAI-generated work as one’s own constitutes a violation of academic integrity and may result in a warning, resubmission, a reduced grade, or a grade of zero.
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Tentative Schedule

Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	17.09.26	Introduction	No Reading
2	24.09.26	The Evolution and Concepts of Security Studies	Williams, Paul D., and Matt McDonald. “An Introduction to Security Studies.” In <i>Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th ed., pp. 1–14. Routledge, 2023.
3	01.10.26	Azerbaijani conception of national security?	Jason Strakes, Anarchy, hierarchy or neither: an indigenous Azerbaijani concept of national security, <i>Azerbaijan in the World - Volume II</i> 2009, pp. 21-29. https://biweekly.ada.edu.az/upload/Azerbaijan%20in%20the%20World%20-%20Volume%20II%202009.pdf
4	08.10.26	Realist Approaches in Security Studies	Glaser, Charles L. “Realism.” In Alan Collins (ed.), <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i> , 6th ed., pp. 13–29. Oxford University Press, 2022. Jensen, Michael A. “Realisms.” In Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald (eds.), <i>Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th ed., pp. 18–35. Routledge, 2023.
5	15.10.26	Liberal Approaches in Security Studies	Morgan, Patrick, with Alan Collins. “Liberalism and Liberal Internationalism.” In Alan Collins (ed.), <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i> , 6th ed., pp. 30–46. Oxford University Press, 2022. Navari, Cornelia. “Liberalisms.” In Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald (eds.), <i>Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th ed., pp. 36–51. Routledge, 2023.
6	22.10.26	Marxism and Security	Herring, Eric. “Historical Materialism.” In Alan Collins (ed.), <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i> , 6th ed., pp. 47–59. Oxford University Press, 2022. Bilgin, Pinar. “Critical Theory.” In Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald (eds.), <i>Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th ed., pp. 67–81. Routledge, 2023

			Peoples, Columba, and Nick Vaughan-Williams. "Critical Theory." In <i>Critical Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , 3rd ed., pp. 31–48. Routledge, 2021.
7	29.10.26	Securitization Theory	Peoples, Columba, and Nick Vaughan-Williams. "Securitisation Theory." In <i>Critical Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , 3rd ed., pp. 114–130. Routledge, 2021.
Midterm exam			
8	12.11.26	Social Constructivism and Security	Agius, Christine. "Social Constructivism." In Alan Collins (ed.), <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i>, 6th ed., pp. 73–89. Oxford University Press, 2022. McDonald, Matt. "Constructivisms." In Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald (eds.), <i>Security Studies: An Introduction</i>, 4th ed., pp. 52–66. Routledge, 2023.
9	05.11.26	Azerbaijan's National Security Concept (Document)	<i>National Security Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan</i>. Approved by Presidential Instruction No. 2198, 23 May 2007. (<i>Azərbaycan Respublikasının Milli Təhlükəsizlik Konsepsiyası</i>. Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin 23 may 2007-ci il tarixli, 2198 nömrəli Sərəncamı ilə təsdiq edilmişdir.) <u>*Revisit theoretical approaches to security: how they help (or not) to understand the Concept.</u>
10	19.11.26	Collective Trauma	İsmayıl Şıxlı, Ölən Dünyam American Psychological Association. "Collective Trauma." In <i>Culturally Informed Trauma and Grief Recovery Toolkit</i>. https://www.apa.org/about/governance/president/grief-toolkit/collective-trauma.pdf Hirschberger, Gilad. "Collective Trauma and the Social Construction of Meaning." <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> 9 (2018): Article 1441. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01441
11	26.11.26	Small State Theories and Azerbaijan's National Security	Jesse, Neal G., and John R. Dreyer. "Realism and Small States in the International System." In <i>Small States in the International System: At Peace and at War</i>, pp. 21–38. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2016. Jafarova, Esmira. "Is Azerbaijan a 'Middle Power'?" <i>Modern Diplomacy</i>, 16 May 2020. Read online: https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/05/16/is-azerbaijan-a-middle-power/
12	03.12.26	Small States: Case of Azerbaijan	Valiyev, Anar, and Narmina Mamishova. "Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy towards Russia since Independence: Compromise Achieved." <i>Southeast European and Black Sea Studies</i> 19, no. 2 (2019): 269–291. https://doi.org/10.1080/14683857.2019.1578053 Jović-Lazić, Ana, and Stefan Bošković. "Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy Positioning towards Russia and Its Impact on the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War: A Hedging Strategy." <i>The Review of International Affairs</i> 75, no. 1190 (2024): 55–82. https://doi.org/10.18485/iipe_ria.2024.75.1190.3
13	10.12.26	Constructivism: The Case of Azerbaijani Identity Building During the Soviet Union	Yılmaz, Harun. "The Soviet Union and the Construction of Azerbaijani National Identity in the 1930s." <i>Iranian Studies</i> 46, no. 4 (2013): 511–533. https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2013.784521

14	17.12.26	Post-Colonialism	Manchanda, Nivi. "Postcolonialism." In Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald (eds.), <i>Security Studies: An Introduction</i>, 4th ed., pp. 131–148. Routledge, 2023. Peoples, Columba, and Nick Vaughan-Williams. "Postcolonial Perspectives." In <i>Critical Security Studies: An Introduction</i>, 3rd ed., pp. 80–95. Routledge, 2021.
15	24.12.26	Energy Security	Friedman, Thomas L. "The First Law of Petropolitics." <i>Foreign Policy</i>, no. 154 (May–June 2006): 28–36. Ibrahimov, Rovshan. "Azerbaijan's Energy History and Policy: From Past till Our Days." In Rovshan Ibrahimov (ed.), <i>Energy and Azerbaijan: History, Strategy and Cooperation</i>, pp. 12–52. Baku: Center for Strategic Studies (SAM), 2013
Final exam			