

Identification	Subject	PSIR 410 Political System & Foreign Policy of the European Union 6 ECTS, 15 Weeks
	Department	Political Science & Philosophy
	Program (Undergraduate, Graduate)	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2026
	Instructor	Elmar MUSTAFAYEV, Ph.D.
	Email:	elmar.mustafayev@khazar.org
	Classroom/hours	The course will take place online every Thursday at 18:40 via the dedicated <i>MS Teams</i> digital classroom.
Prerequisites	N/A	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory course for the students of “European Studies” / Elective course for the students of “International Relations” and “Political Science”	
Textbooks and course materials	Core readings: ❖ Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), <i>European Union Politics</i> (7th ed.), Oxford University Press. ❖ Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). <i>The Foreign Policy of the European Union</i> (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education. Suggested readings: ❖ Antonina Bakardjieva Engelbrekt, Niklas Bremberg, Anna Michalski, Lars Oxelheim (2020). “European Union in a Changing World Order”, Palgrave Macmillan Reading materials for the course are conveniently accessible to students through the dedicated <i>MS Teams</i> digital classroom.	
Course description	This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the European Union's political system and foreign policy. It delves into the historical evolution, key actors, as well as global and regional developments that shape EU foreign policy. Additionally, the course examines the EU's relationships <i>vis-à-vis</i> major and regional powers, such as the United States, China, Russia, and Turkey, as well as its actorness in the immediate neighborhood.	
Course objectives	This course aims to... ❖ provide students with an in-depth understanding of the European Union’s political system and foreign policy. ❖ analyze the historical evolution of EU foreign policy and the institutional and political actors involved. ❖ explore the global and regional developments that shape EU external action. ❖ examine the EU’s relationships with major powers (United States, China, Russia, Turkey) and regional actors in its neighborhood. ❖ assess the EU’s role and actorness in international relations.	

Learning Outcomes	By the end of this course, students will be able to... ❖ explain the institutional framework and decision-making processes of EU foreign policy. ❖ identify and evaluate the key actors, historical milestones, and policy shifts in EU foreign policy. ❖ analyze global and regional developments affecting the EU's external action. ❖ critically assess the EU's relationships with major powers (United States, China, Russia, Turkey) and its immediate neighborhood. ❖ demonstrate an understanding of the EU's actorness and effectiveness in international relations. ❖ apply theoretical and empirical knowledge to case studies of EU foreign policy.		
Teaching methods	Case analysis		x
	Group discussion		x
	Lecture		x
Evaluation Criteria	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	TBA	30
	Active participation	During the semester	10
	Case study discussions	17.12.26-24.12.26	10
	Presentation	24.09.26-10.12.26	10
	Final Exam	TBA	40
	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 (<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 **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.

Course assessment is conducted through active participation, case study discussions, student presentations, written midterm and final examinations.

Active Participation: Students in this course are not simply expected to listen and memorize the lectures but to come prepared, having studied the assigned reading materials in advance. They should actively engage in discussions, contribute thoughtfully, and be able to demonstrate and debate their viewpoints.

Case Study Discussions: During the semester, students will be assigned to analyze two articles (case studies) on the EU foreign policy. The articles will be provided through the dedicated MS Teams digital classroom. Students are expected to read the articles carefully, prepare a structured analysis, and be ready to discuss their findings in class.

Presentations: Each student will prepare a presentation on a topic that plays a significant role in the EU but is not directly covered in the syllabus. Presentation topics are assigned individually via the designated MS Teams digital classroom. The detailed requirements for presentations are also provided on Teams. Presentation topics may also be included in the Final Exam. Failure to deliver the presentation on the scheduled date will result in no alternative date being provided.

The use of AI tools in the preparation of presentations is strictly forbidden!

Mid-term & Final Exams: The mid-term and final exams will consist of open-ended questions that assess students' understanding of the topics covered throughout the semester, including the articles assigned for discussions.

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. AI Policy This policy governs the responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in coursework and research. It applies to undergraduate students and academic researchers, ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability. GAI may support learning and research by helping organize ideas, checking grammar, or assisting with planning. However, it must never replace original analysis, creativity, or independent thinking. All uses of GAI must be disclosed clearly in assignments, projects, theses, and publications. Example: "ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2025) was used for language editing. All ideas and conclusions are my own." Students may use GAI only as a supportive tool, with a maximum of twenty-five percent of text-based assignments. Its use is strictly prohibited in exams, quizzes, and graded in-class assessments. Researchers may use GAI for structuring, editing, and idea generation, but not for writing entire papers, fabricating references, or producing false data. Accuracy must always be verified. Violations include hidden or unauthorized use, failure to disclose, plagiarism, or data falsification. Penalties may involve warnings, resubmission, grade reduction, or disciplinary action. Instructors and supervisors must specify permitted levels of GAI use in syllabi or research guidelines. GAI is allowed only as a supportive tool. Students remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of their work. 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			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	Week 1 17/09/2026	European Union: Historical Context (Part I)	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borrágán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapters 1, 18

2	Week 2 24/09/2026	European Union: Historical Context (Part II)	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 2
3	Week 3 01/10/2026	Institutions and Actors: European Commission	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 10
4	Week 4 08/10/2026	Institutions and Actors: European Council & Council of the European Union	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 11
5	Week 5 15/10/2026	Institutions and Actors: European Parliament	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 12
6	Week 6 22/10/2026	Policymaking	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 16
7	Week 7 29/10/2026	Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) & Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 19
8	Week 8 05/11/2026	Midterm exam	<i>The date of the Mid-term Exam will be communicated to students well in advance by the Dean's Office</i>
9	Week 9 12/11/2026	Key Issues in EU Foreign Policy	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 5

10	Week 10 19/11/2026	EU and its neighbourhood	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 11
11	Week 11 26/11/2025	EU Membership Negotiations with Turkey: Entrapped Forever?	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 11
12	Week 12 03/12/2026	EU relations with Russia, the U.S. & China	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 12
13	Week 13 10/12/2026	Future of the EU	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 29
14	Week 14 17/12/2026	Case Study Discussions	
15	Week 15 24/12/2026		
Final exam			<i>The date of the Final Exam will be communicated to students well in advance by the Dean's Office.</i>