

Identification	Subject (Code, title, credits)	PSIR370: NATO and Security Studies 3KU / 6 ECTS
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate level
	Term	Spring 2026
	Instructor	Huseyn Aliyev
	E-mail:	aliyev.huseyn@khazar.org
	Classroom	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)
	Office hours (online)	By appointment
Prerequisites	None	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Major Elective	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Sloan, S. R. (2016). <i>Defense of the West: NATO, the European Union, and the Transatlantic Bargain</i>. Manchester University Press.</p> <p>Buzan B. Wæver O. & Wilde J. de. (1998). <i>Security: a new framework for analysis</i>. Lynne Rienner Pub. Relevant excerpts</p> <p>Deutsch, K. W., Burrell, S. A., Kann, R. A., Lee, M., Lichterman, M., Lindgren, R. E., Loewenheim, F. L., & Van Wagenen, R. W. (1957). <i>Political Community and the North American Area</i>. Princeton University</p> <p>Taliaferro, J. W. (2000). Security Seeking under Anarchy: Defensive Realism Revisited. <i>International Security</i>, 25(3), 128–161.</p> <p>Snyder, G. H. (2002). Mearsheimer’s World-Offensive Realism and the Struggle for Security: A Review Essay. <i>International Security</i>, 27(1), 149–173.</p> <p>Jahn, B. (2018). Liberal internationalism: historical trajectory and current prospects. <i>International Affairs</i>, 94(1), 43–61. doi:10.1093/ia/iix231</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> Taleb, N. N. (2008). <i>The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable</i>. London: Random House. ISBN: 1400063515</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> SAROTTE, M. E. (2021). <i>Not One Inch: America, Russia, and the Making of Post-Cold War Stalemate</i>. Yale University Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv22fqbtq</p> <p>Malek, M. (2008). NATO and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia on Different Tracks. <i>Connections</i>, 7(3), 30–51.</p>	

	http://www.jstor.org/stable/26323347 Official sources and archive materials		
Course outline	<p>This course examines the dynamic interplay between NATO (agency), global order (structure), and security studies (theory) as they evolve. It is structured into three thematic modules. The first module explores the Cold War period, also known as the bipolar world order, analyzing how NATO responded to and contributed to the stability of this system through deterrence and containment policies as a security community. This module examines NATO's role through the lenses of defensive realism and security community theory.</p> <p>The second module focuses on NATO's transformation after the end of the Cold War, within the unipolar order. It explores NATO's search for a new identity, applying the theories of offensive realism and liberal institutionalism to understand this shift.</p> <p>The third module examines NATO's role in the multipolar world, as it adapts to newly emerging challenges. In this context, security perceptions become more flexible, and the theory of securitization is employed to analyze this transformation.</p>		
Course objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine the evolution of NATO within the broader context of global order and security studies. - Explore how NATO's strategies, including deterrence, containment, and identity formation, align with different security paradigms. - Apply key security theories—defensive realism, offensive realism, liberal institutionalism, and securitization—to understand NATO's response to a shifting geopolitical landscape. - Develop a critical understanding of how security perceptions evolve and influence NATO's policies and strategic priorities. 		
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate an understanding of NATO's evolution within the broader framework of global order and security studies. - Evaluate NATO's key strategies, including deterrence, containment, and identity formation, concerning different security paradigms. - Apply security theories—defensive realism, offensive realism, liberal institutionalism, and securitization—to assess NATO's responses to shifting geopolitical dynamics. - Critically assess the evolution of security perceptions and their impact on NATO's policies and strategic priorities. 		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm evaluation	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30%

	Attendance		5%
	Lead the Class assignment		10%
	Reading Response		5%
	Discussion Participation		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 regularly as the classes are conducted in a combined lecture/seminar format where students should play an active part. - 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>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Grading schemes for the class:</u></p> <p>During the semester, grades will be allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30/100% - the mid-term exam - 40/100% - the final exam - 30/100% - in-class activities <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Academic misconduct:</i></p> <p>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 and, therefore are strictly forbidden and will, if proven, be penalized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plagiarism, - cheating, - unauthorized collaboration, - falsification, - multiple submissions. 		

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>On plagiarism:</i></p> <p>Plagiarism is unethical and an offense under the University regulations. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations relating to plagiarism and cheating in examinations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rules of Professional Conduct</i></p> <p>The students shall behave in a way to create a favorable academic and professional environment during class hours. Unauthorized discussions, use of electronic devices, 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.</p>
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Tentative schedule

Date/Day (subject to change, if necessary, on holidays)	Topics	Readings
Week 1	Introductory notes	<i>No mandatory reading</i>
Week 2	Cold War and NATO: How to avoid war in Europe?	<p>Sloan, S. R. (2016). Defense of the West: NATO, the European Union, and the Transatlantic Bargain. Manchester University Press.</p> <p>The transatlantic bargain and defense of the West Genesis of the bargain</p>
Week 3	Cold War and NATO: How to avoid war in Europe?	<p>Sloan, S. R. (2016). Defense of the West: NATO, the European Union, and the Transatlantic Bargain. Manchester University Press.</p> <p>The transatlantic bargain revised The bargain through the Cold War, 1954–1989</p>
Week 4	Nation-states in bipolar	Taliaferro, J. W. (2000). Security Seeking under

	world order – Defensive realism	Anarchy: Defensive Realism Revisited. <i>International Security</i> , 25(3), 128–161. NATO: deterrence, balancing, and containment, security dilemma
Week 5	Nation-states in bipolar world order – Security Community	<i>Excerpts will be provided:</i> Deutsch, K. W., Burrell, S. A., Kann, R. A., Lee, M., Lichterman, M., Lindgren, R. E., Loewenheim, F. L., & Van Wagenen, R. W. (1957). <i>Political Community and the North American Area</i> . Princeton University Press. NATO: shared identities, trust, and expectations of peaceful conflict resolution
Week 6	How NATO operates – NATO’s Institutional Architecture	Materials from NATO’s official website sources will be provided <i>Recommended:</i> Washington Treaty (1949)
Week 7	Post-Cold War NATO – NATO for what?	Sloan, S. R. (2016). <i>Defense of the West: NATO, the European Union, and the Transatlantic Bargain</i> . Manchester University Press. The 1990s: transitions and challenges
Week 8	Mid-term	No lecture
Week 9	Post Cold War NATO – European or Transatlantic defense?	Sloan, S. R. (2016). <i>Defense of the West: NATO, the European Union, and the Transatlantic Bargain</i> . Manchester University Press. The 2000s: turbulent transatlantic ties
Week 10	Post-Cold War NATO – NATO’s civic and out-of-area operations	Materials from NATO’s official website sources will be provided
Week 11	Nation-states in unipolar world order: Offensive realism	Snyder, G. H. (2002). Mearsheimer’s World-Offensive Realism and the Struggle for Security: A Review Essay. <i>International Security</i> , 27(1), 149–173.

		NATO: enlargement, power maximization, preemptive wars, security dilemma
Week 12	Nation-states in unipolar world order: Liberal internationalism	Jahn, B. (2018). Liberal internationalism: historical trajectory and current prospects. <i>International Affairs</i> , 94(1), 43–61. doi:10.1093/ia/iix231 NATO: multilateral security, democracy promotion, international cooperation, collective defense and shared democratic values
Week 13	Multilateral World and NATO – Return of realpolitik?	Sloan, S. R. (2016). <i>Defense of the West: NATO, the European Union, and the Transatlantic Bargain</i> . Manchester University Press. The 2010s: new tasks, new traumas
Week 14	Multilateral World and NATO – Return of realpolitik?	Malek, M. (2008). NATO and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia on Different Tracks. <i>Connections</i> , 7(3), 30–51. NATO and South Caucasian countries' official sources
Week 15	Nation-states in multipolar world order: Securitization theory	<i>Excerpts will be provided:</i> Deutsch, K. W., Burrell, S. A., Kann, R. A., Lee, M., Lichterman, M., Lindgren, R. E., Loewenheim, F. L., & Van Wagenen, R. W. (1957). <i>Political Community and the North American Area</i> . Princeton University Press. NATO: cyber security, terrorism, COVID-19 pandemic, hybrid warfare
Week 16 (TBD)	Final exam	