Identification	**Subject (code, title, credits)**	PSIR 250 İnternational Security 3KU /6ECTS credits	
	Department	Political Science & Philosophy	
	Program (Undergraduate, Graduate)	Undergraduate	
	Term	Fall 2026	
	Instructor	Javid Veliyev, Ph.D	
	Email:	velievcavid@gmail.com	
	Classroom/hours	122 Bashir Safar-Oghlu St,	
Prerequisites	N/A		
Language	English		
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory		
Textbooks and course materials	Core readings: -Edited by Paul D. Williams, "Security Studies: An Introduction" -Barry Buzan and Lene Hansen, "The Evolution of International Security Stduies" -Lawrence Freedman, "Strategy: A History".		
Course description	This course examines the core concepts, theories, and practices of international security in the post–Cold War and contemporary global system. It explores traditional military security alongside emerging non-traditional threats such as terrorism, cyber warfare, energy insecurity, climate change, and great-power competition. Emphasis is placed on both theoretical frameworks and real-world case studies.		
Course objectives	- Demonstrate familiarity with key security theories; - Critically assess international security dilemmas; - Analyze regional and global security cases; - Produce written and oral security policy analysis.		
Learning Outcomes	By the end of the course, students will be able to: - Understand major theories of international security; - Analyze traditional and non-traditional security threats; - Evaluate the role of states, alliances, and international institutions; - Apply security concepts to contemporary global conflicts; - Develop policy-oriented and analytical thinking skills.		
Teaching methods	**Presentation**		x
	Group discussion		x
	Lecture		x
Evaluation Criteria	**Methods**	**Date/deadlines**	**Percentage (%)**
	Midterm Exam	**TBA**	30
	Presentation	**During the semester**	30
	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 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. **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. Course assessment is conducted through active participation, case study discussions, written midterm and final examinations. **Active Participation & Case-Study Discussions:** Students following this course are not simply expected to listen and memorize the lectures but to study the reading materials well; engage in discussions; and be able to demonstrate and debate his/her viewpoints. **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. !!!NOTE!!! The use of AI tools for assignments and examinations is strictly prohibited. **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	17.09.26	**Introduction to International Security** *What is security?*	Paul D. Williams, "Security Studies: An Introduction", p., 1-10.
2	24.09.26	**Theories of International Security** *Realism and Neorealism* *Liberalism and Institutionalism* *Constructivism*	Paul D. Williams, "Security Studies: An Introduction", Routladge, 2008.
3	01.10.26	**The State, Power, and the Security Dilemma** *Sovereignty and national interest* *Balance of power* *Security dilemma in practice*	Ejitu N. Ota and Chinyere S. Ecoma, " Power and National Interest in International Relations", European Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences. https://eu-opensci.org/index.php/ejsocial/article/view/18268/4490 Marcin Adamczyk1 Patrycja Rutkowska, The Clash Between China and the United States and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region – A Security Dilemma, a Balance of Power, and the Bandwagon Effect, Studia Orientalne 2021, nr 1 (19)
4	08.10.26	**War, Conflict, and Use of Force** *Causes of war* *Conventional vs asymmetric warfare* *Just War Theory*	Dotun OGUNKOYA. Reflection on the Causes and Moral Justification of War, The Journal of International Social Research Volume: 3 Issue: 12 Summer 2010/ 304-314.
5	15.10.26	**Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence** *Nuclear strategy and deterrence theory* *Arms race dynamics*	Michael Mazarr, Understanding Deterrence, Perpective, Rand Corporation. https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/perspectives/PE200/PE295/RAND_PE295.pdf.

		Proliferation challenges	Sverre Lodgaard, Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world?, Routledge, 2011. Heinz Gärtner, Deterrence, Disarmament, and Arms Control, https://www.oiip.ac.at/cms/media/wp68_hg_end.pdf, May 2013
6	22.10.26	**Arms Control and Disarmament** *Arms control regimes* *Confidence-building measures* *Challenges to disarmament*	Emanuel Adler, Arms Control, Disarmament, and National Security: A Thirty Year Retrospective and a New Set of Anticipations, Daedalus , Winter, 1991, Vol. 120, No. 1, Arms Control: Thirty Years On (Winter, 1991), pp. 1-20 Disarmament and Arms Control, https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/24700/1/Unit-9.pdf Political and Security issues, https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/24385/1/Unit-14.pdf
7	29.10.26	**International Organizations and Collective Security** *United Nations and peacekeeping* *NATO and regional alliances* *Collective vs cooperative security*	Richard Cohen and Michael Mihalka, Cooperative Security: New Horizons for International Order, https://www.marshallcenter.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-04/mc-paper_3-en.pdf Emel Osmançavuşoğlu, Challenges to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in the Post-Cold War Era, PERCEPTIONS, December 1999 – February 2000 Volume IV - Number 4
8	12.11.26	**Midterm exam**	**TBA**
9	19.11.26	**Terrorism and Violent Extremism** *Definitions and typologies* *State vs non-state actors* *Counterterrorism strategies*	Introduction of International Terrorism, United Nations, Vienna 2018. Katariina Mustasilta, Olli Ruohomäki & Mathilda Salo, Understanding Non-State Actors, FIIA Working Paper, 128. May 2022.https://fiia.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/wp128_understanding-non-state-armed-groups_forces-for-good-evil-or-something-in-between.pdf David C. Rapoport, "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism", https://icct.nl/sites/default/files/import/publication/Rapoport-Four-Waves-of-Modern-Terrorism.pdf Terrorçuluğa Qarşı Mübarizə haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu, https://e-qanun.az/framework/3855
10	26.11.26	**Hybrid warfare strategies** *Cybersecurity and Hybrid Warfare* *Cyber threats and cyber war* *Information warfare and disinformation*	Guillem Colom Piella, NATO`s Strategies for Responding To Hybrid Conflicts, https://www.cidob.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/47-52_GUILLEM%20COLOM%20PIELLA_ANG.pdf Mario Baumann and Katri Pynnöniemi,

			European Security in the Era of Hybrid Warfare, DGAP Policy Brief, https://dgap.org/en/research/publications/european-security-era-hybrid-warfare
11	03.12.26	**Energy and Economic Security** *Energy geopolitics* *Resource conflicts* *Sanctions and economic warfare*	Daniel Yergin, The New Map: Energy, Climate, and the Clash of Nations, Penguin Books, 2021. "The Geopolitics of Renewable EnergyGeo-Economics: The Interplay between Geopolitics," Economics, and Investments by Joachim Klement, CFA. https://www.cfainstitute.org/en/research/foundation/2021/geo-economics PP. 206-244.
12	10.12.26	**Regional Security Complexes** *Middle East security* *South Caucasus and Black Sea region* *Indo-Pacific security dynamics*	Homeira Moshirzadeh, Identity and Security in the Middle East, Iranian Review of Foreign Affairs, Vol. 4, No. 2, Summer 2013, pp. 5-32. Teona Giuashvili, The Changing Face of the South Caucasus, https://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/Assets/Documents/updates/2025-SU-SCaucasus-WEB-03.pdf
13	17.12.26	**Great Power Competition** *US-China rivalry* *Russia and revisionist powers* *Multipolar world order*	Joachim Klement, Economics, and Investments by Joachim Klement, CFA. For more chapters, go to https://www.cfainstitute.org/en/research/foundation/2021/geo-economics
14	24.12.26	**Future of International Security** *Emerging technologies (AI, drones, space)*	Marina Favaro, Neil Renic and Ulrich Kühn, Negative Multiplicity: Forecasting the Future Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Stability and Human Security, İnstitute for Peace Research and Security Policies, 09/2022.
15	31.12.26	**Generalization of the course**	
Final exam			