

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 300 Theories of International Relations 3KU /6ECTS credits
	Department	Political Science & Philosophy
	Program (Undergraduate, Graduate)	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2026
	Instructor	Javid Veliyev, Ph.D
	Email:	velievcaid@gmail.com
	Classroom/hours	122 Bashir Safar-Oghlu St,
Prerequisites	N/A	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Textbooks and course materials	Core readings: • Hans J. Morgenthau, 1918, Politics Among Nations, New York, NY. Knopf. • Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit and Jacqui True (2005) "Theories of International Relations". Third edition. Palgrave Macmillan. • Kenneth N. Waltz (1979) Theory of International Politics, University of California, Berkeley.	
Course description	This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the Theories of International Relations. It delves international relations from theoretical perspective, key theories, as well as global and regional developments that shape international relations. Additionally, the course examines international relations theories such as realism, liberalism, critical theory, postmodernist theories, constructivism, feminism, green politics.	
Course objectives	• To analyze the international relations from theoretical perspective; • To identify and assess the basic theories of international relations; • To compare and contrast the basic international relations theories; • Familiarization with key theories, concepts, and debates of International Relations. • Comprehensive re-reading of the origin of IR and its mainstream theories and concepts, with basic tools to question statist ontology and reification of eurocentrism. • Appreciation of decolonial accounts that challenge the mainstream and parochial International Relations. • Analysis of the assumptions and key concepts of IR such as power, sovereignty, empire and international order. • Learning about the new directions in IR via a critical engagement with Global IR and the relational turn in IR.	
Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the course, the students are expected to articulate good analytical and critical thinking on... • historically contextualizing the evolution of mainstream IR theories, • students will also learn about the leading debates aimed at de-centering and pluralizing the knowledge-base of IR. • The debates and conversations on the genealogies of • Azerbaijan perspectives on IR are anchored in this backdrop.	
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	15.09.2026	Introductions and Syllabus	<i>Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics, University of California, Berkeley.</i> <i>Robert O. Keohane, 2009 “Political Science As a Vocation”, Political Science and Politics, 42 (02). 359-363.</i>
2	22.09.2026	What is “the International”? International Relations.	<i>Norman Angell, 2012, “The Influence of Credit Upon International Relations”, In the Foundations of International Polity, UK. Heinemann.</i>

			<i>J. David Singer. 1961. "The Level of Analysis Problem in International Relations". World Politics. 14. (1). 77-92.</i>
3	29.09.2026	Realism (s) and Neo-Realism	<i>Hans J. Morgenthau, 1918, Politics Among Nations, New York, NY, Knopf.</i> <i>Kenneth Waltz, 1979, Theory of International Politics, Reading, MA. Addison Wesley.</i>
4	06.10.2026	War and Security under Anarchy	<i>Helen Milner, 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: Critique", Review of International Studies 17, (1). 67-85.</i>
5	13.10.2026	Classical/Neo/New Liberalism	<i>Michael W. Doyle, 1986 "Liberalism and World Politics", American Political Science Review, 80 (4). 1151-1169.</i>
6	20.10.2026	International Institutions	<i>Robert O. Keohane, 1988. "International Institutions: Two Approaches", International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 4 (Dec., 1988), pp. 379-396</i>
7	27.10.2026	The Domestic Politics, the Democratic Peace, and Public Opinion	<i>John R. Oneal and Bruce M. Russett, 1997, "The Classical Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985", International Studies Quarterly, 41, (2). 267-294.</i>
8	12.11.26	Midterm exam	TBA
9	19.11.26	Case Studies to be Discussed	

10	26.11.26	Constructivism	<i>Maja Zehfuss, 2004. "Constructivism in International Relations. The politics of reality", Cambridge University Press. 1-33.</i>
11	03.12.26	Power, Hierarchy, and Networks	<i>Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, 2005, "Power in International Politics", International Organization 59, (1). 39-75.</i> <i>Janice Bially Mattern and Ayse Zarakol, 2016, "Hierarchy in World Politics", International Organization 70, (3). 623-654.</i>
12	10.12.26	Critical Theory	<i>Hofmann, M (1987), Critical Theory and inter paradigm Debate", Millenium 16 (2), 231-250.</i> <i>Linklater, A (1986), " Realism, Marxism and Critical International Theory", Review of International Studies, 12.301-312.</i>
13	17.12.26	Post-Colonial IR	<i>Mohamed OSMAN GUUDLE, 2021, POST COLONIALISM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY: ETHICS, KNOWLEDGE AND ORIENTALISM,</i>
14	24.12.26	What is IR in 2026?	<i>Contemporary international relations and diplomacy will be discussed from the perspective of IR theories. Active participation of students is required</i>
15	31.12.26	Generalization of the course	
Final exam			