

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR: 215 Geopolitics 6 ECTS, 15 weeks
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2026
	Instructor	Laman Gahramanova
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Language	English	
Required textbooks and course materials	<i>Core readings:</i> Flint, C. (2022). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Colin Flint, Peter J. Taylor (2025) Political Geography: World-Economy, Nation-State, and Locality 8th Edition, Routledge Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019) Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)	
Course outline	This course provides a comprehensive introduction to geopolitics, exploring the interplay between geography, politics, and power. Students will delve into the fundamental concepts of geopolitics, examining the various actors and forces that shape the global landscape. The course will cover a range of topics, including national identity, territorial disputes, network geopolitics, and environmental geopolitics. By analyzing real-world examples, including Azerbaijan's national identity and energy geopolitics, students will gain a deeper understanding of the practical applications of geopolitical theory.	

Course objectives	The primary objective of this course is to equip students with a solid foundation in geopolitical theory and analysis. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: Define geopolitics and its key concepts, such as territory, power, and identity. Identify and analyze the various geopolitical agents, including states, non-state actors, and individuals. Understand the different ways in which geopolitical codes are represented and justified. Explore the complex relationship between national identity and geopolitical aspirations. Analyze the geopolitical implications of territorial disputes and boundary conflicts. Examine the role of networks and social movements in shaping global politics. Evaluate the impact of environmental factors on geopolitical dynamics. Critically assess the agency of individuals and groups within geopolitical structures. Apply geopolitical concepts to specific case studies, such as Azerbaijan's national identity and energy geopolitics.		
Learning outcomes	By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the core concepts and theories of geopolitics. 2. Analyze complex geopolitical issues from multiple perspectives. 3. Critically evaluate the role of power, identity, and territory in shaping international relations. 4. Apply geopolitical knowledge to real-world situations, including current events and historical examples. 5. Develop effective research and writing skills to analyze and present geopolitical arguments. 6. Engage in thoughtful discussions and debates about geopolitical issues.		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm evaluation	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30
	Case Study Presentation	During the semester	10

	Attendance & Active participation	During the semester	10
	Quiz	During the semester	10
	Final exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	Total		100
Policy	Attendance Students are expected to attend scheduled classes regularly and on time. Attendance contributes to overall engagement and learning continuity. Active Participation Evaluation of students' active participation in class discussions, group work, and interactive activities, reflecting preparation, collaboration, and communication skills. Case Study Presentation Individual case study assignments designed to assess students' ability to apply theoretical concepts to practical situations and demonstrate critical analysis. Quiz Periodic quizzes held during the semester to test students' understanding of key concepts, terminology, and course materials covered in lectures and readings Exams Students' understanding and progress in the course will be evaluated through mid-term and final examinations. Examination dates will be set by the Dean's Office. The mid-term exam is usually held halfway through the semester, while the final exam takes place at the end of the course. 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		

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 20% 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 after 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.

Tentative Schedule		
Week (subject to change if necessary, on holidays)	Topics	Readings
Week 1 16.09.2026	Introduction	No reading material assigned.
Week 2 23.09.2026	Defining Geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 1, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge pp. 1–20. Recommended: Chapter 2, Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019) Chapter 1, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 3 30.09.2026	Defining Key Concepts in Geopolitics	Chapter 2, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, Chapter 2, pp. 21–48.
Week 4 07.10.2026	Geopolitical Agents and Codes	Compulsory: Chapter 3, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Chapter 3, pp. 49–78. Recommended: Chapter 5, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 5 14.10.2026	Representation/ Justification of Geopolitics Codes	Compulsory: Chapter 4, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, Chapter 4, pp. 79–102. Recommended: Chapter 5, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)

Week 6 21.10.2026	National Identity	Compulsory: Chapter 5, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, pp. 103–132. Recommended: Chapter 4, Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019) Chapter 3, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 7 28.10.2026	Territorial Geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 6, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, Chapter 6, pp. 133–172. Recommended: Chapter 5, Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019) Chapter 3, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 8 04.11.2026	Midterm Exam	
Week 9 11.11.2026	Azerbaijan's National Identity	Compulsory: Yilmaz H. The Soviet Union and the Construction of Azerbaijani National Identity in the 1930s. Iranian Studies. 2013;46(4): pp. 511–533.
Week 10 18.11.2026	Network Geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 7, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, pp. 173–206. Recommended: Chapter 7, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 11 25.11.2026	Social Movements, Terrorism	Compulsory: Chapter 7, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, Chapter 7, pp. 173–206. Recommended: Chapter 7, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)

Week 12 02.12.2026	Global Geopolitical Structure	Compulsory: Chapter 8, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, Chapter 8, pp. 207–232. Recommended: Chapter 5, Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019)
Week 13 09.12.2026	Geography or Institutions?	Compulsory: Daren Acemoglu, Why Nations Fail? Chapters 1 and 2 pp. 1–43.
Week 14 16.12.2026	Environmental geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 9, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge, Chapter 9, pp. 233–270.
Week 15 23.12.2026	Energy Geopolitics: Azerbaijan	Compulsory: Azerbaijan`s Energy History and Policy”, pages 12-52, Rovshan Ibrahimov, Energy and Azerbaijan: History Strategy and Cooperation, pp. 12–52. Recommended: Thomas L. Friedman, “The First Law of Petropolitics”, Foreign Policy
Week 16 30. 12.2026	Revision for the final exam	
Date to be decided by the Dean’s Office	Final exam	

If necessary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.