

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR351, Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy 6 ECTS
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate
	Term	Spring 2026
	Instructor	Laman Gahramanova
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	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	English Language Skills	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core readings: Georg Sørensen, Jørgen Møller, Robert Jackson, Introduction to International Relations. Theories and Approaches, Oxford University Press (2022) Svante E. Cornell. Azerbaijan Since Independence, 2011</p>	
Course outline	<p>This course examines the theoretical and practical dimensions of foreign policy with a specific focus on Azerbaijan. It begins with an introduction to foreign policy as a concept and major International Relations theories, including realism, liberalism, critical approaches, and small-state perspectives. The course then explores the historical foundations of Azerbaijan's foreign policy, covering the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Soviet period.</p> <p>The second half of the course focuses on Azerbaijan's contemporary foreign policy priorities, including the Karabakh conflict, and Azerbaijan's bilateral relations with major regional and global actors such as Russia, Turkey, Iran, the United States, and the European Union.</p>	
Course objectives	<p>The objectives of this course are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce students to foreign policy analysis and major International Relations theories • Explain how theoretical approaches shape foreign policy behavior • Examine the historical evolution of Azerbaijan's foreign policy • Analyze Azerbaijan's key foreign policy priorities, including the Karabakh conflict and energy efficiency policy • Evaluate Azerbaijan's bilateral relations with regional and global powers • To develop students' skills in reading, analyzing, comparing political texts, and thinking critically. • To improve skills in academic discussion, argumentation, and presentation. 	
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of foreign policy analysis and major International Relations theories. 2. Explain how different theoretical approaches influence foreign policy decisions and behavior. 	

	<p>3. Trace and critically assess the historical development of Azerbaijan’s foreign policy.</p> <p>4. Analyze Azerbaijan’s key foreign policy priorities, including the Karabakh conflict and energy efficiency initiatives.</p> <p>5. Evaluate Azerbaijan’s bilateral relations with regional and global powers using evidence-based reasoning.</p> <p>6. Read, interpret, compare, and critically analyze political texts.</p> <p>7. Engage effectively in academic discussions, construct well-reasoned arguments, and deliver clear presentations.</p>		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm evaluation	To be determined by the Dean’s Office	30
	Class attendance		5
	Group discussion and active participation		5
	Case Study		10
	Quiz		10
	Final exam	To be determined by the Dean’s Office	40
	Total		100
Policy	<p>Class attendance Students are expected to attend scheduled classes regularly and on time. Attendance contributes to overall engagement and learning continuity.</p> <p>Group Discussion and Active Participation Evaluation of students’ active participation in class discussions, group work, and interactive activities, reflecting preparation, collaboration, and communication skills.</p> <p>Case Study Individual case study assignments designed to assess students’ ability to apply theoretical concepts to practical situations and demonstrate critical analysis.</p> <p>Quiz Periodic quizzes held during the semester to test students’ understanding of key concepts, terminology, and course materials covered in lectures and readings.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>		

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

Date/Day	Topics	Readings
Week 1 17.02.2026	Introduction Foreign Policy: A Concept	Robert Jackson, Georg Sørensen, Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches [7 ed.] Oxford University Press (2019), Chapter 10: Foreign Policy pp. 251-266
Week 2 24.02.2026	IR Theories and Foreign Policy: Realism	Robert Jackson, Georg Sørensen, Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches, Chapter 2: Classical Theories –Realism pp. 66-94
Week 3 03.03.2026	IR Theories and Foreign Policy: Liberalism	Robert Jackson, Georg Sørensen, Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches, Chapter 3: Classical Theories- Liberalism pp. 100-128 Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points", https://www.britannica.com/event/Fourteen-Points

		Keohane, Robert O., and Lisa L. Martin. "The promise of institutionalist theory." <i>International Security</i> , vol. 20, no. 1, 1995, p. 39
Week 4 10.03.2026	Small States and Foreign Policy	Baldur Thorhallsson, "Studying small states: A review", <i>Small States & Territories</i> , Vol. 1, No. 1, 2018, pp. 17-34
Week 5 17.03.2026	Foreign Policy of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic	Jamil P. Hasanli, "The Republic of Azerbaijan in International Relations System (1918-1920)", in Alexandros Petersen & Fariz Ismailzade ed., <i>Azerbaijan in Global Politics Crafting Foreign Policy</i> , (Baku: Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, 2009), pp. 25-66. Svante E. Cornell, <i>Azerbaijan Before Soviet Rule</i> , in Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp.3-30
Week 6 24.03.2026	Novruz Holiday	
Week 7 31.03.2026	Azerbaijan within the Soviet Union	The Soviet Union and the Construction of Azerbaijani National Identity in the 1930s, <i>Iranian Studies</i> , 46:4, 511-533) Svante E. Cornell, <i>Soviet Azerbaijan</i> , in Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp. 31-45 Alex, Marshall (2009). <i>The Caucasus Under Soviet Rule</i> (Volume 12 of Routledge Studies in the History of Russia and Eastern Europe ed.). Taylor & Francis. P. 89. ISBN 9780415410120.
Week 8 07.04.2026	Midterm Exam	
Week 9 14.04.2026	Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy Priority: Karabakh Conflict I	S. Cornell, "Can America Stop a Wider War Between Armenia and Azerbaijan?", <i>National Interest</i> , (2020) Svante E. Cornell, <i>The Shadow over Azerbaijan: Karabakh</i> , in Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp. 126-161 "Parts of a Circle, The Summary Film", https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3yuVOK96RE
Week 10 21.04.2026	Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy Priority: Karabakh Conflict II	Svante E. Cornell, <i>The Shadow over Azerbaijan: Karabakh</i> , in Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp. 126-161

Week 11 28.04.2026	Azerbaijan-Russia Relations	Svante E. Cornell, Russia, the Resurgent Imperialist, in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp. 338-358
Week 12 05.05.2026	Azerbaijan-Turkey Relations	Svante E. Cornell Turkey, Best Neighbor or Big Brother? in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp. 359-391 Cornell, Svante, “Turkey and the Conflict in Nagorno Karabakh: A Delicate Balance” <i>Middle Eastern Studies</i> , vol. 34, no. 1, 1998, pp. 51–72
Week 13 12.05.2026	Azerbaijan -Iran Relations	Svante E. Cornell, Iran and the “Other” Azerbaijan, in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp. 318-337
Week 14 19.05.2026	Azerbaijan USA Relations	Svante E. Cornell, “Azerbaijan and the West”, in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp. 392-425 Thomas Goltz, Section 907 of Freedom Support Act Article, 1996
Week 15 26.05.2026	Azerbaijan – EU Relations	Aliyev, I. (Year of speech). Avropa Birliyi bizi qəbul etsə belə üzv olmayacağımız https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xsf2pmT2hN4&fbclid=IwAR3kihp4ZnkHJgiO5kc2xDn6sxzRv23hzkcMt0XKLMYmoI3NG388pJx4KrA Svante E. Cornell, “Azerbaijan and the West”, in. Svante E. Cornell. <i>Azerbaijan Since Independence</i> , 2011 pp.392-425
Final exam	Date to be decided by the Dean’s Office	

Additional readings and assignments will be provided by the instructor for this course.
If necessary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.