

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 360 Political Theories and Ideologies – Siyasi nəzəriyyələr və ideologiyalar A 3KU /6 ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate
	Term	Autumn 2026
	Instructor	Dr. Rail Safiyev
	E-mail:	railsafiyev2009@gmail.com
	Classroom/hours	Fridays, 15:20/17:00
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	N/A	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Required textbooks and course materials	Core Readings: Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideologies. 7th edition. Bloomsbury Publishing. Heywood, A. (2015). Political Theory: An Introduction. 4th edition. Bloomsbury Publishing. Supplementary Sources: Brennan, J. (2016). Political Philosophy: An Introduction. Cato Institute. Kymlicka, W. (2002). Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction. Oxford University Press. Goodin, R. E., Pettit, P., & Pogge, T. W. (Eds.). (2007). A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy (Vol. 105). John Wiley & Sons. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. https://plato.stanford.edu/ A History of Political Thought: From Ancient Greece to Early Christianity. Ed. by J. Coleman. Blackwell Publishers, 2000. A History of Political Thought: From the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Ed. by J. Coleman. Blackwell Publishers, 2000. A History of Western Political Thought. Ed. by I. McClelland. Routledge, 1998.	

	Tokuoğlu, Ceylan. (2002). “Azerbaycan’da Milliyetçilik ve Millî Kimlik Bilinci.” Güz, 23, 39–66. Özkırımlı, Umut. (2017). Theories of Nationalism: A Critical Introduction. 3rd ed. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
Course outline	Ideology is not merely a list of political doctrines; it also concerns how power produces meanings, identities, and ideas about what is politically normal. Ideology answers the question of how society should be politically organized, while political theories provide concepts; ideologies show how those concepts become competing visions of political and social order. In this course on Political Theories and Ideologies, I introduce major traditions of political thought and their understanding of power, authority, equality, the state, the nation, society, and freedom. The course explores the evolution of theories within political philosophy in parallel with relevant emerging ideologies, while observing changing social and historical conditions and engaging with diverse perspectives and key authors. While examining how political ideas continue to shape politics, conflicts, and institutions in different countries, our topics of discussion will go into detail on political ideologies and their practical outcomes. The course seeks to address questions that are particularly salient in contemporary Azerbaijani society and encourages students to critically reflect on the notions of political ideas and ideologies. The modernization process in Azerbaijan will be studied as one of the main causes of the emergence of modern ideologies in Azerbaijan. The effects of modernization and post-colonial development are shown to be accompanied by social, cultural, and political changes.

	Through selected case studies, the course aims to assess and test the theories on empirical grounds, drawing on individual and collective social experiences.		
Course objectives	The objective of the course is to provide students with the major theoretical schools in the study of political ideologies, to highlight how these approaches differ, and to explain why awareness of these differences is essential. In addition, the course aims to equip students with empirical knowledge that enables them to identify, classify, and critically analyze key problems of political ideologies, including their historical evolution, underlying causes, and contemporary manifestations. Course objectives can be summarized as following: To develop students' understanding of the history of political ideologies; To develop students' understanding of the principles underlying the formation and development of political ideas.		
Learning outcomes	Students will be familiarized with major ideologies and political thinkers, including their worldviews and the historical and political contexts in which they lived. They will be able to study and analyze political ideologies with new research methods and identify the relationship with other academic disciplines.		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm exam	TBA	30
	Attendance and Participation	During the semester	10
	Quiz/Essay	13.11.2026	10
	Presentation	25.09.2026-04.12.2026	10
	Final exam	TBA	40
	Total		100
Policy	You are expected to: - attend online classes on a regular basis - take an active part in debates and group discussions - 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 **30%** 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.

Presentation:

During the length of the course, the students will be offered to prepare a compulsory PPT presentation. The presentation represents maximum 10% of the final grade out of 100; submission is done during the length of the course, but the deadline is the same as for the paper: 07 December 2023. No grace period for this part. The country-case must be approved by the instructor to avoid doubling up.

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. 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		<i>General Introduction into core readings and subjects of Political ideologies</i>

18/09/2026	Introduction	<i>Heywood, A. (2015). Political Theory: An Introduction. pp. 1-13;</i>
Week 2 25/09/2026	Why political ideologies matter?	<i>Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 1-19. and 267-271</i>
Week 3 02/10/2026	Schools of Conservatism	<i>Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 49-74.</i>
Week 4 09/10/2026	Politics, Government, and the State	Heywood, A. (2015). Political Theory: An Introduction. pp. 13-47. Yael Navaro Yashin. Faces of the State. Secularism and Public Life in Turkey. Princeton University Press 2002
Week 5 16/10/2026	Fascism and Populism	Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 148-186.
Week 6 23/10/2026	Liberalism	Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 19-49
Week 7 30/10/2026	Socialism and Anarchism	Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 75-124
Week 8	Midterm exam	

06/11/2026		
Week 9 13/11/2026	Multiculturalism and Transnationalism	<i>Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 225-245;</i> <i>Grant, Bruce: Cosmopolitan Baku. Ethnos 75, no. 2 (2010): pp. 123-147.</i>
Week 10 20/11/2026	Feminism and Ecologism	<i>Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 186-225.</i>
Week 11 27/11/2026	Nationalism	<i>Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 124-148.</i> <i>Ceylan Tokuoglu. 2002.Azerbaycan'da Milliyetçilik ve Milli Kimlik bilig. Güz Sayı 23: pp. 39-66</i> <i>Umut Özkırmı. Theories of Nationalism. A Critical Introduction Third Edition Palgrave 2017</i>
Week 12 04/12/2026	Imperialism, Orientalism and Postcolonialism	<i>Kassymbekova, Botakoz und Erica Marat: Time to Question Russia's Imperial Innocence, PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 771, 2022</i> <i>Vera Tolz Russia's Own Orient: The Politics of Identity and Oriental Studies in the Late Imperial and Early Soviet Periods (2011)</i>
Week 13	Azerbaijan among ideologies of Socialism, Liberalism and Eurasianism	<i>Jersild, Austin: Rethinking Russia from Zardob: Hasan Melikov Zardabi and the "native" Intelligentsia, in: Nationalities Papers, Vol 27, No. 3, 1999, S. 503-517</i>

11/12/2026		<i>We Are All Eurasian, NewsNet: Bulletin of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies 52, no. 1 (2012): 1-6</i>
Week 14 18/12/2026	Islam as an Ideology	<i>Heywood, A. (2021). Political Ideology: An Introduction. pp. 245-265</i>
Week 15 25/12/2026	Last Discussion	
	Final Exam	