

<b>Identification</b>	<b>Subject (Code, title, credits)</b>	<b>PSIR 450: Comparative Politics</b> 3 Khazar credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	<b>Department</b>	<b>Political Science and Philosophy</b>
	<b>Level</b>	Undergraduate
	<b>Term</b>	Autumn 2024
	<b>Instructor</b>	Gulzhan Kulakhmet
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	<b>Phone:</b>	(+994 12) 421 10 93 # 213
	<b>Classroom/hours</b>	Neftçilər, 41 Mahsati str., or virtually via Microsoft Teams
	<b>Office hours</b>	TBA
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None	
<b>Language</b>	<b>English</b>	
<b>Compulsory/Elective</b>	Compulsory	
<b>Required textbooks and course materials</b>	<p><b>Core readings:</b></p> <p>Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning.</p> <p>Deth, J. V. &amp; Newton, K. (2010) Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge</p> <p>Siarroff, A. (2013) Comparing Political Regimes. University of Toronto Press</p> <p>Daniel C. Hallin and Paolo Mancini. 2004. Comparing Media Systems, Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Heywood, A (2013). Politics. 4th ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p><b>Supplementary readings:</b></p> <p>Supplementary materials come from a broad as well as a multi-disciplinary range of academic articles and official documents. Students will be provided with these materials either in electronic form or in hard copies.</p>	
<b>Course outline</b>	<p>This course introduces the students to the discipline that helps to comprehend different complex concepts in comparison. Through cross-national analysis students process different variables that effect domestic policies as well as foreign policy of other countries. Broad context and analysis of different systems will teach students how to approach the analysis and political phenomena of various countries and their current events that distinguish their system, which in turn represents an interesting case to study.</p>	
<b>Course objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help students to understand and make distinction between different systems and regimes</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable students to come up with valid generalizations about government and politics</li> </ul>	
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>After the completion of the course, students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- have advanced understanding of the comparative complexities and difficulties in cross-national comparisons;</li> <li>- have an ability to establish causal connections between different phenomena and how different variables and causes affect political changes;</li> <li>- have an ability to conduct analysis longer-term causes of political changes and continuities within nations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
	<b>Midterm written exam (based on 50% of the content)</b>	35
	<b>Final written exam (based on 100% of the content)</b>	35
	<b>Small academic paper</b>	8
	<b>Presentation</b>	12
	<b>Active Participation</b>	10
	<b>Total</b>	100
<b>Policy</b>	<p><b>Paper:</b></p> <p>During the length of the course, the students will be offered to write a small compulsory paper (no less and no more than 10 pages, 13 Times New Roman font, line spacing: 1,5, the volume includes bibliography pages, but does not include cover page and table of content. The paper represents maximum 20% of the final grade out of 100; submission deadline: <b>10 December 2024</b>; grace period – 3 days, reducing the mark for the paper by correspondingly 1, 2 and 3 points; on the course-related topic of the student’s choice (the topic must be approved by the instructor). The overall % to be awarded to the student by the instructor will be worked out from the following 7 different segments: paperformat, argument/research question’s/methodology visibility in the text, discussion, conclusion, academic English, citations style, and bibliography.</p> <p><b>Exams:</b></p> <p>The midterms written exam (80 minutes) will be based on the 50% of the course-associated content, while for the final written exam (80 minutes) the students must be ready to exhibit their knowledge of 100% of the course’s content. On both occasions, in clear hand-writing and using academic style in the process of outlining thoughts, facts and ideas, students will be required to</p>	

answer to 5 questions (for the midterm exam) and to 5 questions (for the final exam). A fair method of choosing the exam questions will be explained in details before the event. The criteria of awarding a particular % for any of the two exams are as follows:

“0 – 6 %” - The student fully and thoroughly answers one of the three questions, but does not give any answer to the remaining question; Or the student does not appear to have an ability to establish causal connections between different events; Or the student has no sufficient competence in conceptualisation of the phenomenon of integration, or theory building in the area of political science; “7 – 12%” - The student attempts to answer all three questions and demonstrates that the basic understanding of the phenomenon under study as well as concepts existing in the field of political science, while causal connections between different events have been understood with non-significant factual errors;

“13 – 18%” – The student gives suitable answers to all three questions, showing her/his understanding of the phenomenon-associated politico-historic processes, while making attempts to conceptualise those with paradigms of international relations. Small factual errors are noticed.

“19 – 24%” – The student gives suitable answers to all three questions, showing her/his above-average understanding of the phenomenon-associated politico-historic processes, while making successful attempts to conceptualise those with paradigms of international relations. No factual errors are noticed.

“25 – 30%” – The student gives thorough answers to all three questions in a well-structured and well-presented academic manner. Very good conceptual thinking is noticed.

“31 – 35%” – The student offers her/his comprehensive insight into the fundamental issues related to the three questions, demonstrates outstanding competence in integration studies-focused conceptualisation and theory building in the field. The student’s in-depth knowledge of the relevant literature, international vision, socio-cultural understanding and familiarity with the field’s tools and techniques are noticed.

**General notes:**

Students following this course are not simply expected to listen and memorize the lectures but to study the reading materials well, to engage in class discussions and small group-works, and be able to demonstrate and debate his/her viewpoints. Therefore, students are expected to:

- attend classes on a regular basis as the classes are conducted in a combined lecture/seminar format where students should take an active part.
- read the assigned and suggested materials before coming to class
- engage actively in classroom discussions
- offer thoughtful and informed classroom presentations and written work

Students are required to comply with the attendance policy of Khazar University. Full-time students are expected to attend all classes unless they are on sick leave or have the permission of the instructor (*approved absence*). A student must submit a justified absence request (either in person or via email) in anticipation of an absence from a particular class. In case if she/he fails to do so, her/his absence will be considered unapproved. Specifically, to be eligible for final grading, a student must not miss more than 25% of class hours (*unapproved absences*). Continuing unapproved absences or lack of participation may lead to dismissal from the course.

#### **Academic misconduct**

Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognise 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 penalised:

- plagiarism,
- cheating,
- unauthorised collaboration,
- falsification,
- multiple submissions.

Plagiarism is unethical in its nature and, thus, it is considered an offence under the University regulations. Please familiarise yourself with the regulations relating to plagiarism.

Plagiarism is copying other people's work without proper attribution. The students committing plagiarism and the students providing materials for plagiarising will automatically receive a zero (0%) for the course. 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 the end of the paper.

**Rules of Professional Conduct**

The students shall behave in the way to create favorable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorised discussions and unethical behaviour are strictly prohibited. Classroom behaviour 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-related programme will not be tolerated. When a student's behaviour 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 behaviour.

**Schedule**

<b>Date/Day</b> (subject to change if there is a justified necessity)	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Week 1</b> <b>16.09.24</b>	Introductory remarks: Why Study Comparative Politics Key Concepts and Variables	Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning. Chapter 1. Pp. 4-20. Deth, J. V. & Newton, K. (2010) Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge. Chapter 1. Pp. 1-10.
<b>Week 2</b> <b>23.09.24</b>	Understanding of the State State formation Theories of State	Deth, J. V. & Newton, K. (2010) Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge. Chapter 1. Pp. 13-30.
<b>Week 3</b> <b>30.10.24</b>	Classifying Political Systems Political Regimes	Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning. Chapter 1. Pp. 20-24
<b>Week 4</b> <b>07.10.24</b>	Democratic Change and Persistence	Deth, J. V. & Newton, K. (2010) Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge. Chapter 3. Pp. 53-65 Siarroff, A. (2013) Comparing Political Regimes. University of Toronto Press. Chapter 4. Pp. 77-97
<b>Week 5</b> <b>14.10.24</b>	Presidential and Parliamentary Government	Deth, J. V. & Newton, K. (2010) Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge. Chapter 5. Pp. 91-102

<b>Week 6</b> <b>21.10.24</b>	Comparing Party Systems & Electoral systems	Siarroff, A. (2013) Comparing Political Regimes. University of Toronto Press. Chapter 7. Pp. 169-195
<b>Week 7</b> <b>28.10.24</b>	Theories of Development	Materials will be provided as a separate document
<b>Week 8</b> <b>04.11.24</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> <b>11.11.24</b>	<b>Holiday/ no class</b>	
<b>Week 10</b> <b>18.11.24</b>	Comparing States and their Media Systems	Daniel C. Hallin and Paolo Mancini (2004) Comparing Media Systems, Cambridge University Press, chs. 1-4
<b>Week 11</b> <b>25.11.24</b>	Comparative Analysis USA & UK	Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning. Chapter 2 & 8
<b>Week 12</b> <b>02.12.24</b>	Comparative Analysis China	Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning. Chapter 15
<b>Week 13</b> <b>09.12.24</b>	Comparative Analysis CIS & Russia	Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning. Chapter 13
<b>Week 14</b> <b>16.12.24</b>	European Union	Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning. Chapter 5
<b>Week 15</b> <b>23.12.24</b>	Final Remarks and Discussion	
	<b>Final exam</b>	-

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.*