

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR: 215 Geopolitics 6 ECTS, 15 weeks
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2025
	Instructor	Ariz Huseynov
	E-mail 1:	ahuseynov@khazar.org
	E-mail 2:	ariz.huseynov@gmail.com (primary for student communication)
	Phone:	Email only
	Classroom/hours	Tuesday, 11:20 (Geopolitics B) Thursday, 10:10 (Geopolitics A)
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	English Language Skills	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective		
Required textbooks and course materials	<p><i>Core readings:</i></p> <p>Flint, C. (2022). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge</p> <p>Colin Flint, Peter J. Taylor (2025) Political Geography: World-Economy, Nation-State, and Locality 8th Edition, Routledge</p> <p>Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019)</p>	

	Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Course outline	<p>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.</p>
Course objectives	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	Class attendance		0
	Presentation		10
	Review Essay		10
	Quiz/Seminar	Every week we will have oral quiz on the week's topic with random students. So, everyone should be prepared.	10
	Final exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	Total		100
Policy	<p>You are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attend classes on a regular basis as the classess are conducted in a combined lecture/seminat 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 		

- 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 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

<p>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.</p>		
Tentative Schedule		
Week (subject to change if necessary, on holidays)	Topics	Readings
Week 1 18.09.2025	Introduction	No reading material assigned but <u>get familiar with the Syllabus.</u>
Week 2 25.09.2025	Defining Geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 1, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge 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 02.10.2025	Defining Key Concepts in Geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 2, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Recommended: Chapter 3, 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 4 09.10.2025	Geopolitical Agents and Codes	Compulsory: Chapter 3, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Recommended: Chapter 5, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 5 16.10.2025	Representation/Justification of Geopolitics Codes	Compulsory: Chapter 4, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Recommended: Chapter 5, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020) Chapter 4, Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019)
Week 6 23.10.2025	National Identity	Compulsory: Chapter 5, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge 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 30.10.2025	Territorial Geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 6, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge 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 06.11.2025	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):511-533
Week 9 13.11.2025	Midterm Exam	
Week 10 20.11.2025	Network Geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 7, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Recommended: Chapter 7, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 11 27.11.2025	Social Movements, Terrorism	Compulsory: Chapter 7, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Recommended: Chapter 7, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 12 04.12.2025	Global Geopolitical Structure	Compulsory: Chapter 8, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge Recommended: Chapter 5, Klaus Dodds, Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, USA (2019) Modelski, George, "Küresel Politikanın Uzun Döngüsü ve Ulus-Devlet", Uluslararası İlişkiler, Cilt 2, Sayı 7 (Güz 2005), s. 3-30.
Week 13 11.12.2025	Geography or Institutions?	Compulsory: Daren Acemoglu, Why Nations Fail? Chapters 1 and 2
Week 14	Environmental geopolitics	Compulsory: Chapter 9, Flint, C. (2021). Introduction to Geopolitics (4th ed.). Routledge

18.12.2025		Recommended: Chapter 13, Sara Smith, Political Geography: A Critical Introduction-Wiley-Blackwell (2020)
Week 15 25.12.2025	Energy Geopolitics: Azerbaijan	Compulsory: Azerbaijan`s Energy History and Policy”, pages 12-52, Rovshan Ibrahimov, Energy and Azerbaijan: History Strategy and Cooperation Recommended: Thomas L. Friedman, “The First Law of Petropolitics”, Foreign Policy
Week 16	Final exam	

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