

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 404 Foundations of National and International Security 3KU /6ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours		
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy		
	Level	Undergraduate		
	Term	Fall 2025		
	Instructor	Ariz Huseynov		
	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:ariz.huseynov@gmail.com">ariz.huseynov@gmail.com</a>		
	Classroom/hours	Microsoft Teams Platform		
	Office hours	By appointment		
Prerequisites	English language skills			
Language	English			
Compulsory/Elective				
Required textbooks and course materials	Core readings:  Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023  Columba Peoples, Nick Vaughan-Williams, <i>Critical Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , Routledge, 2020  Alan Collins, <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i> , Third Edition, Oxford University Press 2015			
Course outline	The course will introduce conceptual and theoretical foundations of the discipline of (International) Security Studies and empirical and historical evolution of security policies of Azerbaijan. First part will situate, and explain its evolution as, the discipline of Security Studies and discuss different theoretical approaches developed within, and beyond, International Relations. Second part of the course will use those conceptual frameworks to explore empirical security issues of Azerbaijan, their development and current state of the art.			
Course objectives	Course objective is to provide students with understanding theoretical schools to the security studies, how these frameworks differ in their approaches and why it is important to be aware of them; empirical knowledge to classify, articulate different security concerns of Azerbaijan, their historical evolution, causes and current situation.			
Learning outcomes	Students will be able to understand and independently analyze security related issues in Azerbaijan and in its foreign relations, their origins and causes, and to look at the issue at hand from different theoretical perspectives.			
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)	

	<b>Midterm evaluation</b>	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30
	<b>Class attendance</b>		0
	<b>Active participation at the seminars</b>		0
	<b>Case-study and PowerPoint presentation</b>		10
	<b>Paper/Review Essay</b>		10
	<b>Quiz/Seminar</b>	Every week we will have oral quiz on the topic of the current week with random students. So, everyone should be prepared.	10
	<b>Final exam</b>	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	<b>Total</b>		100
<b>Policy</b>	<p><b>You are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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>.</li> <li>- read the assigned and suggested readings before you come to class</li> <li>- engage actively in classroom discussions</li> <li>- offer thoughtful and informed classroom presentations and written work</li> <li>- submit all your assignments on time</li> <li>- follow assignments closely and carefully.</li> </ul> <p><b>Class attendance:</b></p> <p>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 (<i>approved absence</i>). 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 <b>25%</b> of class hours (<i>unapproved absences</i>). 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.</p> <p><b>Academic misconduct</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- plagiarism,</li> <li>- cheating,</li> <li>- unauthorized collaboration,</li> <li>- falsification,</li> <li>- multiple submissions.</li> </ul> <p><i>On plagiarism:</i></p>		

<p>Plagiarism is unethical and an <u>offence</u> under the University regulations. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations relating to plagiarism and cheating in examinations.</p> <p>Plagiarism is copying other people's work without <u>proper</u> 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.</p> <p><b>Rules of Professional Conduct</b></p> <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		
Date/Day (subject to change if necessary, on holidays)	Topics	Readings
1. 18.09.2025	Introduction	
2. 25.09.2025	The Evolution and Concepts of Security Studies	- Chapter 1, Williams, Paul D, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023
3. 02.10.2025	Realist Approaches in Security Studies	- Chapter 2, Alan Collins " <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i> " Third Edition, Oxford University Press 2015 - Chapter 2, Williams, Paul D, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023
4. 09.10.2025	Liberal Approaches in Security Studies	- Chapter 3, Alan Collins " <i>Contemporary Security Studies</i> " Third Edition, Oxford University Press 2015

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 2, Williams, Paul D, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i>, 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023</li> </ul>
5. 16.10.2025	Marxism and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 4, Alan Collins “<i>Contemporary Security Studies</i>” Third Edition, Oxford University Press 2015</li> <li>- Chapter 7, Williams, Paul D, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i>, 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023</li> </ul>
6. 23.10.2025	Social Constructivism and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 7, Alan Collins “<i>Contemporary Security Studies</i>” Third Edition, Oxford University Press 2015</li> <li>- Chapter 3, Williams, Paul D, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i>, 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023</li> </ul>
7. 30.10.2025	Small State Theories and Azerbaijan’s National Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Realism and Small States in the International System, Chapter 2, Small States in International System</li> <li>- Esmira Jafarova, Is Azerbaijan a “middle power”, <i>Modern Diplomacy</i>, 2020, <a href="https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/05/16/is-azerbaijan-a-middle-power/">https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/05/16/is-azerbaijan-a-middle-power/</a></li> </ul>
8. 06.11.2025	Small States: Case of Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anar Valiyev and Narmina Mamishova, Azerbaijan’s foreign policy towards Russia since independence: compromise achieved, <i>Southeast European And Black Sea Studies</i>, 2019</li> <li>- Ana Jović-Lazić, Stefan Bošković, Azerbaijan’s foreign policy positioning towards Russia and its impact on the second Nagorno-Karabakh war: A hedging strategy, <i>Vol. LXXV, No. 1190</i>, pp. 55–82</li> </ul>
9. 13.11.2025	Midterm Exam	
10. 20.11.2025	Constructivism: The Case of Azerbaijani Identity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harun Yilmaz, The Soviet Union, and the Construction of Azerbaijani National Identity in the 1930s, <i>Iranian Studies</i>, 2013</li> </ul>

	During the Soviet Union	
11. 27.11.2025	Post-Colonialism	- Chapter 8, Postcolonialism (Nivi Manchanda), Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i> , 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023
12. 04.12.2025	Energy Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thomas L. Friedman, “The First Law of Petropolitics”, Foreign Policy</li> <li>- Azerbaijan`s Energy History and Policy”, <u>pages 12-52</u>, Rovshan Ibrahimov, <i>Energy and Azerbaijan: History Strategy and Cooperation</i></li> </ul>
13. 11.12.2025	Post-Structuralism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 6 (Linda Åhäll, Poststructuralism), Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald, <i>Security studies: An Introduction</i>, 4th Edition, Routledge, 2023</li> <li>- Chapter 4, Columba Peoples, Nick Vaughan-Williams, <i>Critical Security Studies: An Introduction</i>, Routledge 2020</li> </ul>
14. 18.12.2025	Post-Colonial Security	- Chapter 4, Columba Peoples, Nick Vaughan-Williams, <i>Critical Security Studies: An Introduction</i> , Routledge 2020
15. 25.12.2025	Movie Time	- Tağıyev: Neft
	<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.*