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| Identification | Subject | PSIR 250 History of International Relations 6 ECTS |
| | Department | Political Science and Philosophy |
| | Program | Graduate |
| | Term | Fall, 2025 |
| | Instructor | Baba Bayramli |
| | E-mail: | bbayramov@khazar.org |
| | Phone: | |
| | Classroom/hours | 11 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus), Room, Tuesday 18:30 - 21:00 |
| | Office hours | By appointment |
| Prerequisites | Consent of instructor | |
| Language | English | |
| Compulsory/Elective | Required | |
| Required textbooks and course materials | <p>Core textbook: Core Textbook</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attila Bárány, Róbert Barta, Attila Györkös, László Pósan, Katalin Schrek, Levente Takács. A History of International Relations. Debrecen, 2024 (PDF is available at https://real.mtak.hu/199789/1/International-Relations-EBOOK.pdf) <p>Supplementary sources :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peter Paret. Makers of Modern Strategy. From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age. Princeton University Press, 1995. 2. Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. New York, 1994 (It is available in the Academic Library of Khazar University). 3. Zbigniew Brzezinski. The Grand Chessboard. American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives. New York, 1997. 4. R. P. Barston. Modern Diplomacy. London and New York, 1988. 5. B. H. Liddell Hart. Strategy. New York, 1991. 5. William Zartman, Victor A. Kremenyuk. Cooperative Security. New York, 1995. 6. William C. Olson. The Theory and Practice of International Relations. Washington, 1991. 7. Samuel P. Huntington. The Clash of Civilizations and the Remarking of World Order. New York 1996. 8. John Roberts. History of the World. New York, 1993 9. Simon Szykman. Diplomacy: An Historical Perspective http://www.diplom.org/Zine/S1995R/Szykman/History.html | |
| Course outline | This course is designed for the graduate students. Course addresses the main aspects of international relations during ancient times, middle ages, modern and contemporary historical periods. | |
| Course objectives | <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is aimed to give the students a wider knowledge about history of international relations. Students will gain knowledge of the nature of international relations beginning from ancient times of world history. The emphasis will be made on the diplomatic activities during the 20th and 21st centuries. | |

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| | <p>Generic Objective of the Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet curriculum requirements of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. <p>Specific Objectives of the Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the students academically, to improve their chance of realizing their potential in analyzing processes of international politics To encourage students participation and interaction and fostering, and atmosphere of tolerance and respect To support the students to improve their ability to discuss and to defend their position To build background for the students' further development in Law and International Relations | | |
| Learning outcomes | <p>By the end of the course the students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To analyze concrete cases of international politics To compare foreign policies of various states in different historical periods To generalize discussion on the issues of international politics To evaluate the role of historical processes To prepare an essay and make presentation on the essay topic | | |
| Teaching methods | Lecture | | x |
| | Group discussion | | x |
| | Experiential exercise | | |
| | Simulation | | x |
| | Case analysis | | x |
| | Course paper | | x |
| | Others | | |
| Evaluation | Methods | Date/deadlines | Percentage (%) |
| | Midterm Exam | To be determined by the Dean's Office | 30 |
| | Case studies | | |
| | Attendance | During the semester | 5 |
| | Assignment and quizzes | | |
| | Essay | | 15 |
| | Group Discussion | During the semester | 15 |
| | Final Exam | To be determined by the Dean's Office | 35 |
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| | Total | | 100 |
| Policy | <p>▪ Preparation for class</p> <p>The structure of this course makes your individual study and preparation outside the class extremely important. The lecture material will focus on the major points introduced in the text. Reading the assigned chapters and having some familiarity with them before class will greatly assist your understanding of the lecture. After the</p> | | |

| <p>lecture, you should study your notes and work relevant problems from the end of the chapter and sample exam questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Withdrawal (pass/fail) <p>This course strictly follows grading policy of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Thus, a student is normally expected to achieve a mark of at least 65% to pass. In case of failure, he/she will be required to repeat the course the following term or year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cheating/plagiarism <p>Cheating or other plagiarism during the Quizzes, Mid-term and Final Examinations will lead to paper cancellation. In this case, the student will automatically get zero (0), without any considerations.</p> <p>Group discussion</p> <p>Students' activity during classes will be evaluated on the basis of their participation in discussions on various topics during the lesson. The instructor will make notes after each discussion and will evaluate students' activities before the final exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professional behavior guidelines <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.</p> | | | |
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| Tentative Schedule | | | |
| We ek | Date/Day (tentative) | Topics | Textbook/Assignments |
| 1 | 16.09.2025 | Introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual Problems of International Relations • Main aspects of the Syllabus | 1) Course Syllabus 2) Attila Bárány A History of International Relations, Chapter 1 |
| 2 | 23.09.2025 | International Relations in Ancient Times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient states of East and West • Role of Diplomacy in Ancient states • International Relations of Ancient Greece • Ancient Rome in the System of International relations | 1) Attila Bárány A History of International Relations, Chapter 2 2) John Roberts. History of the World. pp. 31-250 |

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| | | | 3)James. P. Speer. World Polity, pp. 5-46 |
| 3 | 30.09.2025 | International Relations During Middle Ages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peculiarities of Middle Ages' Diplomacy • Byzantine diplomacy • The Roman Pope and French state • Arabic Diplomacy • Consul Services in Italian states | 1)John Roberts. History of the World, pp. 251-435 2)Zbigniew Brzezinski. The Grand Chessboard. American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives. Chapter One. 3) James. P. Speer. World Polity, pp. 5-46 |
| 4 | 07.10.2025 | International Relations in 16th – 18th centuries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political map of Europe and Asia in 16th century • State interest according to Machiavelli • Raison d'etat of Richelieu • The Westphalian System • Holy Roman Empire • Azerbaijan in the system of international relations of 15-18th centuries | 1)Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapter 3. 2)Mahendra Kumar. Theoretical Aspects of International Politics. Chapter 10 |
| 5 | 14.10.2025 | International Relations in 19th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New phenomenon in diplomacy with emerging of capitalism • Vienna Congress and Holy Alliance • The Balance-of-Power system, the European concert • Talleyrand • The Paris Congress • Bismarck's Realpolitik | 1)Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 3, 5 and 6. |
| 6 | 21.10.2025 | International Relations Before and During the First World War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomacy of Big Powers • Triple and Entente Alliances • Germany –Austria – Ottoman's Central Axis | 1)Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 7 and 8. 2) John Roberts. History of the World, 706-730. |

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| 7 | 28.10.2025 | Versailles Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Versailles negotiations • Wilsonian concept of reshaping the world • The “Russian Question” • Formation of the League of Nations | Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapter 9. |
| 8 | 04.11.2025 | Midterm Exam | |
| 9 | 11.11.2025 | Holiday | |
| 10 | 18.11.2025 | Diplomatic Activities in 1920s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consequences of Versailles for Germany • Collective Security concept challenges • Washington, Geneva, the Hague, Lozanne, Lokarno, Rapallo conferences | Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 10 and 11. |
| 11 | 25.11.2025 | Rise of Nazism in Europe and Destruction of Versailles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitler and his ambitions • New trends in European diplomacy • The Munich decision • Molotoff – Ribbentroph Pact | Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 12, 13 and 14 |
| 12 | 02.12.2025 | International Relations During Second World War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • America re-enters into the arena • Soviet Strategy toward allies • Churchill as a diplomat | 1) Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 15 and 16. 2) John Roberts. History of the World, pp. 756-794. |
| 13 | 09.12.2025 | The Beginning of the Cold War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosevelt concept “Four Policemen” • Marshall Plan • Churchill’s speech in Fulton • The policy of “Containment” • Success and pain of containment | Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 17 and 18 |
| 14 | 16.12.2025 | The Dilemma of Containment: From Korea to Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Korean War • The Suez Crisis • The Hungarian Events • The Berlin Crisis • The Caribbean Crisis • The Vietnam War | Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 19-26 |

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| 15 | 23.12.2025 | Collapse of the Soviet Union and the New World Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorbachov's Perestroika • Reagan's Doctrine • Berlin Wall's destruction • What to do with China, Russia and Iran? • US Foreign policy: Wilson or Roosevelt, Wilsonianism or Realism? • Azerbaijan in the World arena | 1)Henry Kissinger. Diplomacy. Chapters 30, 31 2)Zbigniew Brzezinski. The Grand Chessboard. American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives. Chapters 4,7 |
| 16 | 30.12.2025 | Generalization of the course | |
| | TBA | Final Exam | |

This syllabus is a guide for the course and any modifications to it will be announced in advance.