

<b>Identification</b>	<b>Subject</b>	PSIR 320, Water Diplomacy - 3KU /6ECTS
	<b>Department</b>	Political Science and Philosophy
	<b>Program</b>	Undergraduate
	<b>Term</b>	Fall, 2025
	<b>Instructor</b>	Firuz Suleymanov
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:fsuleymanov@khazar.org">fsuleymanov@khazar.org</a>
	<b>Phone:</b>	
	<b>Classroom/hours</b>	11 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus), Room 506,
	<b>Office hours</b>	By appointment
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Consent of instructor	
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Compulsory/Elective</b>	Required	
<b>Required textbooks and course materials</b>	<p><b>Core textbook:</b></p> <p><b>Core Textbook:</b> Islam, S. &amp; Susskind, L.E. (2012) Water Diplomacy A Negotiated Approach to Managing Complex Water Networks</p> <p>Islam, S. &amp; Smith, K.M. (2020) Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Water Diplomacy A Principled and Pragmatic Approach</p> <p><b>Supplementary sources :</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kittikhoun, A. &amp; Schmeier, S. (2020) River Basin Organizations in Water Diplomacy (Global Institutions)</li> <li>2. Islam, S. &amp; Madani, K. (2017). Water Diplomacy in Action: Contingent Approaches to Managing Complex Water Problems</li> <li>3. Islam, S. &amp; Smith, K.M. (2020) Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Water Diplomacy a Principled and Pragmatic Approach</li> <li>4. Swain, A. &amp; Öjendal, J. (2018) Routledge Handbook of Environmental Conflict and Peacebuilding</li> <li>5. Cook, C. &amp; Bakker, K. (2012). Water security: Debating an emerging paradigm</li> <li>6. Schillinger, J. (2020). Water in war: Understanding the impacts of armed conflict on water resources and their management</li> <li>7. Shumilova O., et al. (2023) Impact of the Russia–Ukraine armed conflict on water resources and water infrastructure</li> <li>8. Suleymanov, F. (2024). The impact of the armed conflict in Karabakh on water security in Azerbaijan</li> <li>9. Suleymanov, F. (2024). The institutionalization of the Kura-Aras River Basin for effective management of water resources</li> <li>10. Suleymanov, F. (2023). The Role of Climate Change on Water Resources Management in the Southern Caucasus in the Post-Conflict Period</li> <li>11. Swain, A. (2016). Water and post-conflict peacebuilding</li> <li>12. Tignino, M. &amp; Kebebew, T. (2022). The Legal Protection of Freshwater Resources and Related Installations during Warfare</li> <li>13. Weinthal, E. et al. (2011). Water and post-conflict peacebuilding: introduction</li> </ol>	

<b>Course outline</b>	This course is designed for the undergraduate students. Course addresses the main aspects of international relations during ancient times, middle ages, modern and contemporary historical periods.		
<b>Course objectives</b>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This course introduces students to the key principles of water diplomacy, focusing on how diplomacy is used to manage shared water resources, resolve conflicts, and foster cooperation between states. It blends water issues with diplomatic strategies to help students understand how countries negotiate and manage water resources for cooperation and sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Generic Objective of the Course</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet curriculum requirements of the School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Objectives of the Course</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the basic concepts of water diplomacy.</li> <li>Learn how diplomatic techniques are applied to water issues.</li> <li>Explore real-world case studies of successful and failed water diplomacy.</li> <li>Gain skills in negotiation and conflict resolution for water-related issues.</li> </ul>		
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p><b>By the end of the course the students should be able:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the fundamentals of water diplomacy</li> <li>Apply diplomatic tools in water negotiations</li> <li>Identify the main challenges and opportunities in transboundary water management</li> <li>Communicate effectively on water diplomacy issues</li> <li>Evaluate the impact of climate change on water resources and diplomacy</li> <li>Critically assess the success and failures of historical and contemporary water diplomacy efforts</li> </ul>		
<b>Teaching methods</b>	<b>Lecture</b>		x
	<b>Group discussion</b>		2
	<b>Experiential exercise</b>		
	<b>Simulation</b>		1
	<b>Case analysis</b>		1
	<b>Course paper</b>		
	<b>Others</b>		
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Date/deadlines</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	To be determined by the Dean's Office	25
	<b>Attendance</b>	During the semester	5
	<b>Role play/negotiation</b>	During the semester	20
	<b>Group Discussion</b>	During the semester	10
	<b>Final Exam</b>	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	<b>Others</b>		

		Total		100
Policy		<div><div><div>▪ Preparation for class</div><div>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 lecture, you should study your notes and work relevant problems from the end of the chapter and sample exam questions.</div></div><div><div>▪ Withdrawal (pass/fail)</div><div>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 60% to pass. In case of failure, he/she will be required to repeat the course the following term or year.</div></div><div><div>▪ Cheating/plagiarism</div><div>Cheating or other plagiarism during the Mid-term and Final Examinations will lead to paper cancellation. In this case, the student will automatically get zero (0), without any considerations.</div></div><div><div>Group discussion</div><div>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.</div></div><div><div>▪ Professional behavior guidelines</div><div>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.</div></div></div>		
Tentative Schedule				
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments	
1	Week 15.09.2025	<div><div>Introduction to the Course</div><div><div><div>• What is water diplomacy?</div><div>• Why is water an important issue in international relations?</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>1) Islam, S. &amp; Susskind, L.E. (2012) Water Diplomacy a Negotiated Approach to Managing Complex Water Networks</div><div>2) Course Syllabus</div></div>	
2	Week 2 22.09.2025	<div><div>The role of diplomacy in water issues</div><div><div><div>• Diplomacy as a cooperation accelerator</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>Islam, S. &amp; Smith, K.M. (2020) Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Water</div></div>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diplomacy as a tool for conflict prevention in water issues</li> </ul>	Diplomacy a Principled and Pragmatic Approach
3	<b>Week 3</b> <b>29.10.2025</b>	<b>Diplomatic Tools in water issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key diplomatic tools: Negotiation, mediation, and treaties.</li> <li>How are these tools used in water diplomacy?</li> </ul>	Islam, S. & Smith, K.M. (2020) Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Water Diplomacy a Principled and Pragmatic Approach
4	<b>Week 4</b> <b>6.10.2025</b>	<b>Water and Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water as a threat</li> <li>Water-related security risk</li> </ul>	Cook, C. & Bakker, K. (2012). Water security: Debating an emerging paradigm
5	<b>Week 5</b> <b>13.10.2025</b>	<b>Water during armed conflict</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water as an instrument of warfare</li> <li>Water as a shelter</li> <li>Water as a casualty</li> </ul>	Shumilova O., et al. (2023) Impact of the Russia–Ukraine armed conflict on water resources and water infrastructure  Schillinger, J. (2020). Water in war: Understanding the impacts of armed conflict on water resources and their management
6	<b>Week 6</b> <b>20.10.2025</b>	<b>Group discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role and importance of water diplomacy for Azerbaijan</li> <li>Water during the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan</li> </ul>	Suleymanov, F. (2024). The impact of the armed conflict in Karabakh on water security in Azerbaijan
7	<b>Week 7</b> <b>27.10.2025</b>	<b>Water in Peacebuilding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water as a Tool for Building Trust</li> <li>Challenges and Opportunities</li> <li>The role of third parties</li> </ul>	1) Swain, A. (2016). Water and post-conflict peacebuilding  2) Weinthal, E. et al. (2011). Water and post-conflict peacebuilding: introduction
8	<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	

	<b>3.11.2025</b>		
9	<b>Week 9 17.11.2025</b>	<b>Water diplomacy under climate change</b>	Suleymanov, F. (2023). The Role of Climate Change on Water Resources Management in the Southern Caucasus in the Post-Conflict Period
10	<b>Week 10 24.11.2025</b>	<b>The Role of International Law in Water Diplomacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Water Law</li> <li>• The role of international organizations</li> </ul>	Tignino, M. & Kebebew, T. (2022). The Legal Protection of Freshwater Resources and Related Installations during Warfare
11	<b>Week 11 1.12.2025</b>	<b>Case studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Indus Waters Treaty in Pakistan-India relations</li> <li>• Water in the Israel–Jordan peace treaty</li> <li>• The Mekong River Basin</li> <li>• Water in the Russia-Ukraine conflict</li> </ul>	1) Kittikhoun, A. & Schmeier, S. (2020) River Basin Organizations in Water Diplomacy (Global Institutions) 2) Suleymanov, F. (2024). The institutionalization of the Kura-Aras River Basin for effective management of water resources
12	<b>Week 12 8.12.2025</b>	<b>Group discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of the Kura-Aras River Basin cooperation</li> </ul>	Suleymanov, F. (2024). The institutionalization of the Kura-Aras River Basin for effective management of water resources
13	<b>Week 13 15.12.2025</b>	<b>Water diplomacy simulation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will role-play a water negotiation simulation.</li> <li>• Apply what they've learned about diplomacy, negotiation, and water management.</li> </ul>	
14	<b>Week 14 22.12.2025</b>	<b>Course wrap-up &amp; final review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the course.</li> <li>• Discussion on future challenges in water diplomacy and the role of young diplomats.</li> </ul>	
16	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	

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