

Identification	Subject (Code, title, credits)	PSIR 110 Introduction to Political Science 3 Khazar credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2025
	Instructor	Gulzhan Kulakhmet
	E-mail:	gkulakhmet@khazar.org
	Phone:	
	Classroom/hours	Neftçilər, 41 Mahsati str., or via Microsoft Teams
	Office hours	TBA
Prerequisites	None	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core readings:</p> <p>Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i>, 16th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022).</p> <p>Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, <i>Essential Readings in World Politics</i>, 6th edition (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2021)</p> <p>Rosamond, B., <i>Theories of European Integration</i> (MacMillan Press, 2000).</p> <p>Zielonka, J. 'Empires and the Modern International System' in <i>Geopolitics</i>, vol.17, issue 3, pp. 502-525, DOI: 10.1080/14650045.2011.595440</p> <p>Heywood, A (2013). <i>Politics</i>. 4th ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Ranney, Austin (1996). <i>Governing: An Introduction to Political Science</i>. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.</p> <p>Supplementary readings:</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>	
Course outline	<p>This course introduces the students to the multidimensional field of Political Science, enabling them to comprehend the notion of political power (on the conceptual level) and then analyse some of the phenomenon's distinguishing features. The course aims at assisting the students in the process of understanding the essence of power, constitutional practices, different branches of the government, parties' systems, and interconnectedness of the discipline with other social sciences. The field-associated socio-political events and their historic connotations will frame the necessary backgrounds for different discussions on political science.</p>	

Course objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide knowledge on conceptualisation and theory-building in political science; • To provide knowledge on structural and decision-making angles of different political science-associated analytical clusters. 	
Learning outcomes	<p>After the completion of the course, students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have sufficient competence in conceptualisation and theory-building in the area of political science; - have advanced understanding of the research complexities related to the field of political science as well as the data available and the approaches utilised to tackle an academic claim within the discipline; - have an ability to establish causal connections between different phenomena related to a discussion on political power; - have multi-disciplinary vision on and familiarity with political institutions; - have an ability to conduct guided research on a topic directly related to political science. 	
Evaluation	Form	Percentage (%)
	Midterm written exam	35
	Final written exam	35
	Small academic paper	5
	Presentation	15
	Active Participation	10
	Total	100
Policy	<p>Paper:</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: 10 December 2025; 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>Exams:</p>	

	<p>The midterms written exam as well as final written exam (90 minutes) will be based on the 50% of the course-associated 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 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:</p> <p>“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 the phenomenon of integration, or theory building in the area of political science; “7 – 12%” - The student attempts to answer all three questions and demonstrate 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;</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“19 – 24%” – The student gives suitable answers to all three questions, showing her/his above-average understanding of the the phenomenon-associated politico-historic processes, while making successful attempts to conceptualise those with paradigms of international relations. No factual errors are noticed.</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>“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</p>
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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 classess are conducted in a combined lecture/seminat 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 justifies 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

<p>relating to plagiarism.</p> <p>Plagiarism is copying other people's work without <u>proper</u> 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.</p> <p>Rules of Professional Conduct</p> <p>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.</p>		
Schedule		
Date/Day (subject to change if there is a justified necessity)	Topics	Readings
Week 1 17.09.25	Introductory remarks: Theorising in the field of Political Science	Morgenthau, H., & Thompson, K. (1985). <i>Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill. Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, <i>Essential Readings in World Politics</i> (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2021)
Week 2 24.09.25	Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Chapters 1-2
Week 3 01.10.25	Policies of the State	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022).

		Chapter 4
Week 4 08.10.25	The Modern State Types of Government	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Chapter 3
Week 5 15.10.25	Political Regimes Types of regimes	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Chapter 7
Week 6 22.10.25	Power and the State Types of Power	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Chapter 4
Week 7 29.10.25	Political Parties, Interest Groups	Rice University (2023) Introduction to Political Science. OpenStax. Chapter 8
Week 8 05.11.25	Midterm exam	
Week 9 12.11.25	Elections and Public Opinion	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Chapter 12
Week 10 19.11.25	Elites theory	Sage Handbook of Political Science (2020). Pp. 500-517
Week 11 26.11.25	International Relations Global Politics: Politics among States and Other Actors	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Chapter 18
Week 12 03.12.25	Globalization International Political Economy	Heywood, A. (2011) Global Politics. Chapter 19
Week 13 10.12.25	National and International Security	Handbook of New Security Studies (2010) edited by J. Peter Burgess. Routledge. <u>Paragraphs 15-18.</u>
Week 14 17.12.25	Conflict and Wars	Heywood, A. (2011) Global Politics. Chapter 10

Week 15 24.12.25	Human Rights	Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. <i>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</i> , 16 th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Chapter 4 Heywood, A. (2011) <i>Global Politics</i> . Chapter 13
	Final exam	-

Additional readings and assignments will be provided by the instructor for this course.
If neccesary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.