

Identification	Subject (Code, title, credits)	PSIR 400: Research Methods 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>Barakso, M., Sabet, D.M. and Schaffner, B. (2013) <i>Understanding Political Science Research Methods</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Campbell, Donald T. and H. Laurence Ross. (1970) The Connecticut Crackdown on Speeding. In Edward R. Tufte, ed. <i>The Quantitative Analysis of Social Problems</i>. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wessley</p> <p>Dawson, K. (2009) <i>Introduction to Research Methods</i>. UK: How to Books</p> <p>Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i>, 6th edition. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.</p> <p>Kellstedt, P.M. & Whitten G.D. (2013) <i>The Fundamentals of Political Science Research</i>. Cambridge University Press</p> <p>Mcnabb, D.E. (2016) <i>Research methods for political science : quantitative and qualitative approaches</i>. London And New York: Routledge, Taylor Et Francis Group.</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>The main purpose of this course is to provide a broad introduction into the foundations of the methodologies used in the social sciences. During this course student will be acquainted with such notions as positive statements and negative statements, empiricism, correlation and causation, hypothesis and theory and ethical issues. The objective of this course is also about “de-mystifying” the research project and showing the students that they can also start doing research on the areas they are interested in.</p>	

Course objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students to understand and make distinction between different concepts as hypotheses and theory, dependent & independent variables. • To enable students to consider the appropriateness of different methodologies and types of evidence to test alternative hypotheses and build different arguments. • To help student to come up with valid generalizations about government and politics and make research with a variety of methods including survey research, interviewing, participant observation, case studies, comparative analysis. 	
Learning outcomes	<p>After the completion of the course, students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student will acquire knowledge of the basic principles of the scientific method. • Demonstrate understanding of main concepts in research methods. • Evaluate the reliability and validity of a research study based on its research design, sampling methods, data collection instrument, and analysis technique. 	
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 grade will depend from the following 7 different segments: paper format, 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,</p>	

	<p>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 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 have 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 literature, international vision, socio-cultural understanding and familiarity with the field’s tools and techniques are noticed.</p> <p>General notes:</p> <p>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</p>
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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 relating to plagiarism.

Plagiarism is copying other people's work without proper 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>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 18.09.25	Introduction to Research Methods	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 1
Week 2 25.09.25	Empiricism in Political Science	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 2
Week 3 02.10.25	Approaches in the Research and Research Types	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 3
Week 4 09.10.25	Research Design and Experiments in the Research Methods	Kellstedt, P.M. & Whitten G.D. (2013) <i>The Fundamentals of Political Science Research</i> . Cambridge University Press. Pp. 70-76 Barakso, M., Sabet, D.M. and Schaffner, B. (2013) <i>Understanding Political Science Research Methods</i> . Routledge. Chapter 5
Week 5 16.10.25	Variables	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 4
Week 6 23.10.25	Population and Sampling	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 7

Week 7 30.10.25	Random sampling	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 7
Week 8 06.11.25	Midterm	
Week 9 13.11.25	Non-random sampling	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 7
Week 10 20.11.25	Quantitative methods	Creswell, J. (2014) <i>Research Design</i> . Sage Publications. Chapter 8
Week 11 27.11.25	Qualitative methods	Barakso, M., Sabet, D.M. and Schaffner, B. (2013) <i>Understanding Political Science Research Methods</i> . Routledge. Pp. 193-204
Week 12 04.12.25	Data Analysis	Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds with Jason D. Mycoff (2008) <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , 8th edition. Chapter 9
Week 13 11.12.25	Wilkinson's Research on "How inequality harms the societies" (case study example of comparative research)	https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_wilkinson_how_economic_inequality_harms_societies?subtitle=en
Week 14 18.12.25	Ethical issues in Research	Dawson, K. (2009) <i>Introduction to Research Methods</i> . UK: How to Books. Chapter 13.
Week 15 25.12.25	Final Remarks and Discussion	
	Final exam	-

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