

Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 580, Theories of International Relations 6 ECTS, 15 Weeks
Department	Political Science & Philosophy
Level	Undergraduate
Term	Fall 2025
Instructor	Javid Veliyev, Ph.D.
E-mail:	velievcaavid@gmail.com
Classroom/hours	122 Bashir Safar-Oghlu St, Baku 1009 Room: 42
Office hours	
Language	English
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory course for the students of “Theories of International Relations”
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans J. Morgenthau, 1918, Politics Among Nations, New York, NY. Knopf. • Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit and Jacqui True (2005) “Theories of International Relations”. Third edition. Palgrave Macmillan. • Kenneth N. Waltz (1979) Theory of International Politics, University of California, Berkeley.
Course outline	This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the Theories of International Relations. It delves international relations from theoretical perspective, key theories, as well as global and regional developments that shape international relations. Additionally, the course examines international relations theories such as realism, liberalism, critical theory, postmodernist theories, constructivism, feminism, green politics.
Course objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To analyze the international relations from theoretical perspective; • To identify and assess the basic theories of international relations; • To compare and contrast the basic international relations theories; • Familiarization with key theories, concepts, and debates of International Relations. • Comprehensive re-reading of the origin of IR and its mainstream theories and concepts, with basic tools to question statist ontology and reification of eurocentrism.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation of decolonial accounts that challenge the mainstream and parochial International Relations. • Analysis of the assumptions and key concepts of IR such as power, sovereignty, empire and international order. • Learning about the new directions in IR via a critical engagement with Global IR and the relational turn in IR. 	
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the course, the students are expected to articulate good analytical and critical thinking on...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historically contextualizing the evolution of mainstream IR theories, • students will also learn about the leading debates aimed at de-centering and pluralizing the knowledge-base of IR. • The debates and conversations on the genealogies of • Azerbaijan perspectives on IR are anchored in this backdrop. 	
Grading	Methods	Percentage %
	Presentation	30 %
	Midterm exam	30%
	Final exam	40%
	Total	100
Assessment	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Students will be given relevant topics related to the course and tasked with conducting mini research to create a presentation. Additionally, if a student proposes an exceptional topic, they may be assigned their preferred subject. Presentations are required to be in power point. Each student will have their own deadline, and failure to meet this deadline will result in a score of “0” for this section. The evaluation criteria are outlined below</p> <p>Guidelines for the presentation preparation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title slide 2. Introduction (Briefly introduce your topic. State the purpose or main goal of the presentation. Provide an overview of what the audience can expect. 3. Main content (should be organized in logical way, divide your presentation into several sections or topics) 4. Conclusion (Summarize the main points of your presentation) <p>Exams</p>	

	<p>To assess students' preparedness in the course, both mid-term and final exams will be administered, with the specific dates determined by the dean's office. Typically, Mid-term exams will commence around the midpoint of the course, while the final exam will be scheduled at the conclusion of the course. The point allocation is as below.</p> <p>On the midterm exam paper, students will encounter five potential questions, but they are only required to select and respond to three of them. Each chosen question in the mid-term exam holds a weight of 10 points. In the final exam students will encounter six potential questions, but they are only required to select and respond to four of them. 3 questions carry a value of 10 points, last question 5 points. The questions are open ended.</p> <p>Course assessment is conducted through active participation, case study discussions, written midterm and final examinations.</p> <p><u>Active Participation & Case-Study Discussions:</u> Students following this course are not simply expected to listen and memorize the lectures but to study the reading materials well; engage in discussions; and be able to demonstrate and debate his/her viewpoints.</p> <p><u>Mid-term & Final Exams:</u> The mid-term and final exams will consist of open-ended questions that assess students' understanding of the topics covered throughout the semester, including the articles assigned for discussions.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>You are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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>. - read the assigned and suggested readings before you come to class - engage actively in classroom discussions - offer thoughtful and informed classroom presentations and written work - submit all your assignments on time - follow assignments closely and carefully. <p>Class attendance: 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 <u>25%</u> 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>Academic misconduct Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognize and uphold high</p>

<p>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"> - plagiarism, - cheating, - unauthorized collaboration, - falsification, - multiple submissions. <p><i>On plagiarism:</i> 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. 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>!!!NOTE!!! <u>The use of AI tools for assignments and examinations is strictly prohibited.</u></p> <p>Rules of Professional Conduct 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	Topics	Readings
Week 1 19.09.2025	Introduction to the Course	
	Introduction to the course and syllabus	Course Syllabus
Week 2 26.09.2025	What is "the International" Relations?	Norman Angell, 2012, "The Influence of Credit Upon International Relations", In the Foundations of International Polity, UK. Heinemann.

Week 3 03.10.2025	Realism (s) and Neo-Realism	Hans J. Morgenthau, 1918, Politics Among Nations, New York, NY, Knopf. Kenneth Waltz, 1979, Theory of International Politics, Reading, MA. Addison Wesley.
Week 4 10.10.2025	War and Security under Anarchy	Helen Milner, 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: Critique", Review of International Studies 17, (1). 67-85.
Week 5 17.10.2025	Classical/Neo/New Liberalism	Michael W. Doyle, 1986 "Liberalism and World Politics", American Political Science Review, 80 (4). 1151-1169.
Week 6 24.10.2025	International Institutions	Robert O. Keohane, 1988. "International Institutions: Two Approaches", International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 4 (Dec., 1988), pp. 379-396.
Week 7 31.10.2025	Mid-term Exam	<i>The date of the Mid-term Exam will be communicated to students well in advance by the Dean's Office</i>
Week 8 07.11.2025	The Domestic Politics, the Democratic Peace, and Public Opinion	John R. Oneal and Bruce M. Russett, 1997, "The Classical Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985", International Studies Quarterly, 41, (2). 267-294.
Week 9 14.11.2025	Constructivism	Maja Zehfuss, 2004. "Constructivism in International Relations. The politics of reality", Cambridge University Press. 1-33.
<i>Case Studies to be Discussed</i>		

Week 10 21.11.2025	Power, Hierarchy, and Networks	Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, 2005, "Power in International Politics", International Organization 59, (1). 39-75. Janice Bially Mattern and Ayse Zarakol, 2016, "Hierarchy in World Politics", International Organization 70, (3). 623-654.
Week 11 28.11.2025	Critical Theory	Hofmann, M (1987), Critical Theory and inter paradigm Debate", Millenium 16 (2), 231-250.
Week 12 05.12.2025	Marxism	Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit and Jacqui True (2005) "Theories of International Relations". Third edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 5.
Week 13 12.12.2025	Post-Colonial IR	Mohamed Osman Guudle, 2021, Post colonialism in international relations theory: ethics, knowledge and orientalism.
Week 14 19.12.2025	What is IR in 2025? Azerbaijan in contemporary international relation	Contemporary international relations and diplomacy will be discussed from the perspective of IR theories. Active participation of students is required.
Week 15 26.12.2025	Final exam	<i>The date of the Final Exam will be communicated to students well in advance by the Dean's Office.</i>

If necessary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.