

Identification	Subject	PSIR 110 Introduction to Political Science 3KU /6ECTS credits	
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy	
	Program	Undergraduate	
	Term	Fall, 2025	
	Instructor	Laman Gahramanova	
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Prerequisites	Consent of instructor		
Language	Azerbaijan language		
Compulsory/Elective	Required		
Required textbooks and course materials	Core textbooks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heywood, A. (2019). <i>Politics</i>. Bloomsbury Publishing.• <i>Shively, W.P. and Schultz, D. Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science, 16th edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022).</i>		
Course outline	This course aims to introduce students to the main concepts and research themes in Politics.		
Course objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand what politics encompasses and different approaches to political analysis.2. Introduce students to the main political ideologies and their influence on political systems.3. Examine the role of the state in political governance and various interpretations of its function.4. Explore the relationship between democracy and political legitimacy and discuss the various forms of democratic governance.5. Understand different political systems and regimes that exist around the world and their characteristics.6. Analyse the role of nationalism in contemporary politics and its impact on global and national identities.		
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss the intersection of economics and politics, focusing on the different forms of capitalism and the global economy.2. Explore the rise of identity politics and how identity shapes political behaviour and policies.3. Examine how culture and media influence politics, particularly in the age of social media and misinformation.4. Understand the mechanics of political representation, the role of elections, and party politics in shaping government and policy.5. Analyse the importance of constitutions, legal systems, and leadership in political governance. <p>Explore international politics, the role of global institutions, and assess whether politics is "broken" in contemporary times.</p>		
Teaching methods	Lecture	x	
	Group discussion	x	
	Case analysis	x	

	Others		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm	8 th week	30
	Attendance and Active Participation	During the semester	5
	Review Presentation	During the semester	5
	Case Study Presentation	During the semester	10
	Quiz	During the semester	10
	Final Exam	At the end of the course	40
	Total		100
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for class <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 lecture, you should study your notes and work relevant problems from the end of the chapter and sample exam questions. After each lesson for the next class all students are required to be well-prepared and answer the questions. The core reading materials are emphasized in <i>bold italic</i> scripts in respective places in the tentative schedule. The rest of the given materials are supplementary and are highly advised to read. If a student shows irresponsible manner and does not get prepared for the class for more than 2 successive lessons appropriate marks will be deducted.</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 60% 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. AI generated answers will not be tolerated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussion <p>For each class students are expected to digest the material and be well prepared for the discussion. Further reading and fresh ideas are welcomed. For their active participation in total, 10 points will be added to the final marks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Studies (Presentations) 		

Students will be assigned different topics. They will do mini research and present their findings in a Power Point slideshow. The deadline for this project is different for each student which will be assigned randomly based on draw and failure to meet this deadline will result in a score of "0" for this section. Further details will be shared with them during the class for “how to do”. Technical requirements are as below for presentation:

Criteria	Share of points
Content	0-2
Organization and Structure	0-2
Clarity and Visuals	0-2
Overall Impact and Creativity	0-2
Use of Visual Aids (if applicable)	0-2
Total	0-10

Guideline for the presentation preparation:

1. Title Slide
2. Introduction (Briefly introduce yourself and your topic. State the purpose or main goal of the presentation. Provide an overview of what the audience can expect.
3. Agenda or Outline (Outline the main sections or topics you will cover in the presentation)
4. Main Content (Should be organized in logical way, divide your presentation into several sections or topics)
5. Conclusion (Summarize the main points of your presentation)
6. References and Sources (Include a slide with citations or sources if you've used external material)

- Exams

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. On the exam paper, students will encounter 7 potential questions, but they are only required to select and respond to 5 of them. Each chosen question in the mid-term and final exams holds a weight of 6 points. The questions are open-ended, and the evaluation will consider the development of English language skills, comprehension of the question, and the organization of the answers, aiming to enhance these aspects during the assessment process.

- Book reading

		<p>Student will be assigned to read a selected geopolitics masterpiece during each term and at the end there will be all group involved debate and discussion. It should be noted that those books are different from core reading and suggested reading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quizzes <p>There will be quizzes during the semester each covering the material has been digested so far. Students will be asked to take multiple choice test which will weigh 5 points for each, in total 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Professional behaviour guidelines <p>The students shall behave in a way to create a favourable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorized discussions and unethical behaviour are strictly prohibited.</p>	
Tentative Schedule			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	17.09. 2025	<p>Siyasət elminə giriş və əsas anlayışlar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Siyasət elminin anlayışları, siyasətin öyrənilməsinə yanaşmalar, güc, səlahiyyət və legitimlik kimi anlayışlar.</i>	<p><i>Heywood, A. (2019). Politics. Bloomsbury Publishing. Chapter 1 (What is Politics?)</i></p>
2	24.09. 2025	<p>Siyasi İdeologiyalar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Liberalizm, Konservatizm, Sosializm, Anarxizm, Faşizm, Feminizm, Yaşıl İdeologiya və Populizm.</i>	<p><i>Chapter 2 (Political Ideas and Ideologies)</i></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). Chapter 3</p>
3	01.10. 2025	<p>Dövlət və onun Siyasətdə rolu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Dövlət anlayışı, dövlətlə bağlı nəzəriyyələr, dövlətin rolu və dövlət gücü ilə bağlı debatlar.</i>	<p><i>Chapter 3 (Politics and the State)</i></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). <u>Chapter 4</u></p>

4	08.10.2025	Demokratiya və Legitimlik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Siyasi legitimlik, legitimləş böhranı, demokratiya modelləri.</i> 	Chapter 4 (Democracy and Legitimacy) 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). <u>Chapter 4</u>
5	15.10.2025	Siyasi rejimlər və sistemlər <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Siyasi rejimlərin təsnifatı (liberal demokratiya, illiberal demokratiya, avtoritar rejimlər)</i> 	Chapter 5 (Regimes of the Modern World) 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). <u>Chapter 7</u>
6	22.10.2025	Millət və Millətçilik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Theories of nationalism, varieties of nationalism (liberal, conservative, expansionist), and the future of nationalism.</i> <i>Millətçilik nəzəriyyələri, millətçiliyin növləri (liberal, konservativ, ekspansionist) və gələcəyi.</i> 	Chapter 6 (Nations and Nationalism)
7	29.10.2025	Siyasi İqtisadiyyat və Qloballaşma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Kapitalizmin növləri, qloballaşmanın siyasətə təsiri, 2007-2009 maliyyə böhranı)</i> 	Chapter 7 (Political Economy and Globalization)
8	05.11.2025	Midterm week	none
9	19.11.2025	(Kimlik Siyasəti) Identity Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Kimlik Siyasəti, mədəni müxtəliflik, irq, etnik kimlik, gender və din.</i> 	Chapter 8 (Politics, Society and Identity)
10	26.11.2025	Siyasi Mədəniyyət və KİV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Siyasi mədəniyyət, ənənəvi və sosial medianın siyasətdə rolu, post-truth siyasət.</i> 	Chapter 9 (Political Culture and the Media)
11	03.12.2025	Seçkilər, Partiyalar və səsvermə <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>İştirak nəzəriyyələri, seçki sistemləri, seçki davranışı, partiyaların növləri və sistemləri.</i> 	Chapters 10 and 11 (Representation, Elections and Voting; Parties and Party Systems) 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 <i>Teymurlu, M. (2014). Politologiya. IX və XII fəsillər</i>
12	10.12. 2025	Qlobal İdarəetmə və Siyasətin gələcəyi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Qlobal idarəetmə, BMT və 21-ci əsrdəki çağırışlar.</i> 	<i>Chapters 19 (World Order and Global Governance)</i>
13	17.12. 2025	Tənqidi siyasət <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Müasir siyasətin tənqidi.</i> 	<i>Chapter 20 (Is Politics Broken?)</i>
14	24.12. 2025	Müasir siyasi proseslərin təhlili	<i>Student will debate about the contemporary situation in political theatre using accumulated knowledge.</i>
15	Date to be decided by the Dean's Office	Final imtahan	

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