

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 361 Political Theory 3 KU/6 ECTS 15 Weeks, 60 Hours	
	Department	Political Science and International Relations	
	Level	Undergraduate	
	Term	Fall 2025	
	Instructor		
	E-mail 1:	<a href="mailto:vhajiyeva@khazar.org">vhajiyeva@khazar.org</a>	
	E-mail 2:		
	Phone:		
	Classroom/hours		
	Office hours	By appointment	
	Prerequisites		
Language	English		
Compulsory/Elective			
Required textbooks and course materials	<p><b>Core readings:</b></p> <p>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory. 2008. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy. 2012. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Arend Lijphart. 2008. Thinking about Democracy. Routledge.</p> <p>Harold Lasswell. 1948. Power and Personality. N&amp;C.</p> <p>Emerging Powers and Global Order. Millennium: Journal of International Studies. Vol. 42(3) 888-896.</p> <p><i>The Democracy Sourcebook</i>. 2003. Edited by Robert A. Dahl, etc. MIT.</p> <p><i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies</i>. Oxford University Press. 2013</p>		
Course outline	This course offers main topics of political theory. Close readings of the canon allow us to discuss enduring questions regarding freedom, equality, legitimacy, power, and liberalism. The course concludes with a look at the continuing impact of these canonical thinkers on contemporary political thought.		
Course objectives	This course intends to learn the origins and development of political ideas and trends of political theory.		
Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Critical Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing a comprehensive understanding of political notions and ideas.</li><li>Preparing presentations and writing essays about the political themes.</li></ul> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Critical analysis</li></ul>		
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Class attendance		5
	Portrait analyzing	25 <sup>th</sup> December	10
	Case-study and PowerPoint presentation	25 <sup>th</sup> December	10
	Activity in discussions		10
	Midterm exam		30
	Final exam		35
	Total		100

<p><b>Policy</b></p>	<p>You are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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>.</li> <li>- prepare and present frame of thinking of the chosen authors and analyze their portrait</li> <li>- offer presentation dedicated to chosen topic and engage actively in discussions around other presentations</li> <li>- offer thoughtful and informed written work</li> <li>- submit all your assignments on time</li> <li>- follow assignments closely and carefully.</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity in discussions:</b></p> <p>Students will get maximum 10% of the final grade out of 100 for their active participation in discussions around topics, presentations and portrait analyses.</p> <p><b>Portrait analyzing:</b></p> <p>During the length of the course, the students will be offered to prepare a compulsory PPT presentation dedicated to portrait analysis of some chosen ideological leader or philosopher. The case study represents maximum 10% of the final grade out of 100; submission is done during the length of the course; topic of presentation and date of submission will be agreed with students in class in the first lesson.</p> <p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <p>During the length of the course, the students will be offered to prepare a compulsory PPT presentation dedicated to the topic chosen by the student. The presentation represents maximum 10% of the final grade out of 100; submission is done during the length of the course; topic of presentation and date of submission will be agreed with students in class in the first lesson.</p> <p><b>Class attendance:</b></p> <p>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>).</p> <p>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 20% 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><b>Academic misconduct</b></p> <p>Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognize 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 penalized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- plagiarism,</li> <li>- cheating,</li> <li>- unauthorized collaboration,</li> <li>- falsification,</li> <li>- multiple submissions.</li> </ul> <p><i>On plagiarism:</i></p> <p>Plagiarism is unethical and an <u>offence</u> under the University regulations. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations relating to plagiarism and cheating in</p>
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		<p>examinations.</p> <p>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><b>Rules of Professional Conduct</b></p> <p>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 (subject to change if necessary on holidays)	Topics	Readings
<b>Week 1</b>  <b>18.09.2025</b>	Introduction to political theory. The structure, topics, methodology of the theory	John S. Dryzek, Bonnie Honig, and Anne Phillips. 2008. Introduction. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory</i> . Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 2</b> <b>25.09.2025</b>	Brief view to the history of political thought	The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press. J. G. A. Pocock. 2008. Theory in History: Problems of Context and Narrative. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory</i> . Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 3</b> <b>02.10.2025</b>	Foundations of Liberalism	Jeffrey Collins. Mark Goldie. The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press. Michael Freeden and Marc Stears. 2013. Liberalism. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies</i> . Oxford University Press
<b>Week 4</b>  <b>09.10.2025</b>	Enlightenment Political Philosophy	Richard Whatmore. Neil McArthur. The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 5</b>  <b>16.10.2025</b>	Power and state	Wendy Brown. Power After Foucault John Ferejohn and Pasquale Pasquino. Emergency Powers 2008. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Harold Lasswell. 1948. Power and Personality. N&C. Matthew D. Stephen. 2014. States, Norms and Power: Emerging Powers and Global Order. Millennium: Journal of International Studies. Vol. 42(3) 888-896.

<b>Week 6</b> <b>23.10.2025</b>	Democracy, civil society and the state	Simone Chambers and Jeffrey Kopstein. Civil Society and the State Mark E. Warren. Democracy and the State Michael Saward. Democracy and Citizenship: Expanding Domains 2008. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Arend Lijphart. 2008. Thinking about Democracy. Routledge. <i>The Democracy Sourcebook</i> . 2003. Edited by Robert A. Dahl, etc. MIT.
<b>Week 7</b> <b>30.10.2025</b>	Socialism and the Marxian traditions	Jonathan Beecher. Terrell Carver. The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 8</b> <b>06.11.2025</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> <b>13.11.2025</b>	Justice, Equality, and Freedom	Richard J. Arneson. Justice After Rawls Judith Squires. Equality and Difference Andrew Williams. Liberty, Equality, and Property Duncan Ivison. Historical Injustice 2008. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Mathias Risse. Global Justice. The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy. 2012. Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 10</b> <b>20.11.2025</b>	Pluralism, Multiculturalism, and Nationalism	David Miller. Nationalism Jeff Spinner-Halev. Multiculturalism and its Critics Anna Elisabetta Galeotti. Identity, Difference, Toleration Chandran Kukathas. Moral Universalism and Cultural Difference 2008. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory</i> . Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 11</b> <b>27.11.2025</b>	Human rights, global justice	Jack Donnelly. Human Rights Chris Brown. From International to Global Justice? 2009. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Mathias Risse. Global Justice. The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy. 2012. Oxford University Press. Allen Buchanan. Human Rights. The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy. 2012. Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 12</b> <b>04.12.2025</b>	Political Philosophy and the Idea of a Social Science	Peter Lassman. The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 13</b> <b>11.12.2025</b>	Contemporary Anglo-American Political Philosophy	George Klosko. The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 14</b>	Contemporary Continental Political Thought	Stephen K. White.

<b>18.12.2025</b>		The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 15</b> <b>25.12.2025</b>	Non-Western Perspectives/ Confucian Political Philosophy. The Muslim Tradition of Political Philosophy	David Wong. Shahrough Akhavi. The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy. 2011. Edited by George Klosko. Oxford University Press.
	<b>Final exam</b>	

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.*