

Identification	Subject	PSIR 300 Theory of International Relations - 3KU / 6 ECTS
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Program	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall, 2025
	Instructor	Baba Bayramli
	E-mail:	bbayramov@khazar.org
	Phone:	
	Classroom/hours	11 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus), Wednesday, 08:30-11:40
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	Consent of instructor	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Required	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core Textbook: Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit and Jacqui True. <i>Theories of International Relations</i>, Third edition, 2005 (Is available at chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/http://lib.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/RefrenceFile/Theories-of-IR.pdf)</p> <p>Supplementary sources :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Walters & Christian Scheinplug. <i>International Relations Theory</i>. Bristol, England, 2017 • Manuela Spindler, <i>International Relations. A Self-Study Guide to Theory</i>. Barbara Budrich Publishers, Opladen - Berlin - Toronto 2013 • Holsti K.J., <i>"International Politics. A Framework for Analysis,"</i> [New Delhi: Prentice-Hall of India, 1992]. • Kissinger, Henry, <i>"Diplomacy,"</i>[New York, London ets: Simon & Schuster,1994] • Handbook of International Relations edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth A. Simmons –Available at https://www.uploady.com/#!/download/8U1yz61jPvk/aQIfgc~IOCNVGVqB 	
Course outline	This course is designed for the undergraduate students. Course addresses such theories of international relations as realism, liberalism, constructivism, the English School, Marxism, feminism, postmodernism, critical theory and green politics.	
Course objectives	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is aimed to give the students the general knowledge about analysis of the diversity of conceptions of theory in the study of international relations. We will begin with a general overview and then go into more details. <p>Generic Objective of the Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet curriculum requirements of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. <p>Specific Objectives of the Course</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the students academically, to improve their chance of realizing their potential • To encourage students participation and interaction and fostering, and atmosphere of tolerance and respect • To support the students to improve their ability to discuss and to defend their position • To build background for the students' further development in Law and International Relations 		
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of the course the students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build up and work with a team for decision making. • To consider external and internal factors while making a decision • To develop and interpret political statements • To evaluate alternative projects and suggest one with maximum utility • To prepare an essay 		
Teaching methods	Lecture		x
	Group discussion		x
	Simulation		x
	Case analysis		x
	Course paper		x
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam		30
	Class Participation		5
	Project (Essay)		15
	Presentation/Group Discussion		15
	Final Exam		35
	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.</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.</p> <p>Essay</p> <p>We appreciate an ability of students to prepare a good essay. The essay should be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An original research of the students. • Written according to the international standards with introduction, internal parts, conclusion, and used special literature. • Limited in size (10 -12 pages/Times New Roman - 12). • Printed in computer, and has a cover page. <p>Students have to make presentation on the essay topic. This activity will be evaluated on the basis of two components: the written copy and presentation.</p> <p>As soon as it is possible, we will offer you a list of themes for essays. Every student can choose for the essay a theme with the consent of instructor.</p> <p>Essay requirements/standards are available in DPSIR.</p> <p>▪ Professional behavior guidelines</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.</p>			
Tentative Schedule			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	17.09.2025	<p><i>Introduction to the Course: The foundation of International Relations, theories and disciplines</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus and its Requirements • How to Prepare the Essay 	<p>1) Scott Burchill..., Introduction</p> <p>2) Course Syllabus</p>
2	24.09.2025	<p><i>Realism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining realism • Hobbes and classical realism • Waltz and structural realism • Motives matter • Process, institutions and change • Morality and foreign policy • How to think about realism 	<p>Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 2</p>
3	01.10.2025	<p><i>. Liberalism</i></p>	<p>Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 3</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the Cold War • Liberal internationalism: ‘inside looking out’ • War, democracy and free trade • Economy and terrorism 	
4	08.10.2025	<i>The English School</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From power to order: international society • Order and justice in international relations • The revolt against the West and the expansion of international society • Progress in international relations 	Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 4
5	15.10.2025	<i>Marxism</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class, production and international relations in Marx’s writings • Nationalism and imperialism • The changing fortunes of Marxism in International Relations • Marxism and international relations theory today 	Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 5
6	22.10.2025	Critical Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of critical theory • The politics of knowledge in International Relations theory • Rethinking political community 	Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 6
7	29.10.2025	Postmodernism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power and knowledge in International Relations • Textual strategies of postmodernism • Problematizing sovereign states • Beyond the paradigm of sovereignty: rethinking the political 	Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 7
8	05.11.2025	Constructivism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationalist theory • The challenge of critical theory • Constructivism and its discontents • The contribution of constructivism • Constructivism after 9/11 	Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 8
9	12.11.2025	Midterm Exam	
10	19.11.2025	Feminism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empirical feminism • Analytical feminism • Normative feminism 	Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 9
11	26.11.2025	Green Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green political theory • Global ecology • Ecocentrism • Limits to growth, post-development 	Scott Burchill..., . Chapter 10

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green rejections of the state-system • Objections to Green arguments for decentralization 	
12	03.12.2025	Global Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basics of global justice • Global justice and climate change • Conclusion 	Stephen McGlinchey..., Chapter 12
13	10.12.2025	Securitisation Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basics of securitisation theory • Securitisation theory and the Islamic State group in Europe • Conclusion 	Stephen McGlinchey..., Chapter 14
14	17.12.2025	Critical Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basics of critical geography • Critical geography and Inuit views of space • Conclusion 	Stephen McGlinchey..., Chapter 15
15	24.12.2025	Generalization of the Course	
	TBA	Final Exam	

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