

Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 410 Political System & Foreign Policy of the European Union 6 ECTS, 15 Weeks (60 in-class hours)
Department	Political Science & Philosophy
Level	Undergraduate
Term	Fall 2025
Instructor	Elmar Mustafayev, Ph.D.
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Classroom/hours	The course will take place online every Monday at 17:00 via the dedicated <i>MS Teams</i> digital classroom.
Office hours	Meetings are held by appointment only, requested via university email at least one week in advance.
Language	English
Prerequisites	Students are required to keep their camera turned on during lessons. Failure to do so will be considered an absence. Active participation is expected, and all discussions, presentations, and assignments must be conducted in English.
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory course for the students of “European Studies” / Elective course for the students of “International Relations” and “Political Science”
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), <i>European Union Politics</i> (7th ed.), Oxford University Press. ❖ Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). <i>The Foreign Policy of the European Union</i> (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education. <p>Suggested readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Antonina Bakardjieva Engelbrekt, Niklas Bremberg, Anna Michalski, Lars Oxelheim (2020). “European Union in a Changing World Order”, Palgrave Macmillan <p>Reading materials for the course are conveniently accessible to students through the dedicated <i>MS Teams</i> digital classroom.</p>
Course outline	This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the European Union's political system and foreign policy. It delves into the historical evolution, key actors, as well as global and regional developments that shape EU foreign policy. Additionally, the course examines the EU's relationships <i>vis-à-vis</i> major and regional powers, such as the United States, China, Russia, and Turkey, as well as its actorness in the immediate neighborhood.

Course objectives	<p>This course aims to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ provide students with an in-depth understanding of the European Union's political system and foreign policy. ❖ analyze the historical evolution of EU foreign policy and the institutional and political actors involved. ❖ explore the global and regional developments that shape EU external action. ❖ examine the EU's relationships with major powers (United States, China, Russia, Turkey) and regional actors in its neighborhood. ❖ assess the EU's role and actorness in international relations. 	
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of this course, students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ explain the institutional framework and decision-making processes of EU foreign policy. ❖ identify and evaluate the key actors, historical milestones, and policy shifts in EU foreign policy. ❖ analyze global and regional developments affecting the EU's external action. ❖ critically assess the EU's relationships with major powers (United States, China, Russia, Turkey) and its immediate neighborhood. ❖ demonstrate an understanding of the EU's actorness and effectiveness in international relations. ❖ apply theoretical and empirical knowledge to case studies of EU foreign policy. 	
Grading	Methods	Percentage %
	Active participation	10%
	Case study discussions	5%
		5%
	Presentation	10%
	Midterm exam	30%
	Final exam	40%

	Total	100
Assessment	<p>Course assessment is conducted through active participation, case study discussions, student presentations, written midterm and final examinations.</p> <p><u>Active Participation:</u> Students in this course are not simply expected to listen and memorize the lectures but to come prepared, having studied the assigned reading materials in advance. They should actively engage in discussions, contribute thoughtfully, and be able to demonstrate and debate their viewpoints.</p> <p><u>Case Study Discussions:</u> During the semester, students will be assigned to analyze two articles (case studies) on the EU foreign policy. The articles will be provided through the dedicated MS Teams digital classroom. Students are expected to read the articles carefully, prepare a structured analysis, and be ready to discuss their findings in class.</p> <p><u>Presentations:</u> Each student will prepare a presentation on a topic that plays a significant role in the EU but is not directly covered in the syllabus. Presentation topics are assigned individually via the designated MS Teams digital classroom. The detailed requirements for presentations are also provided on Teams. Presentation topics may also be included in the Final Exam. Failure to deliver the presentation on the scheduled date will result in no alternative date being provided.</p> <p><u>The use of AI tools in the preparation of presentations is strictly forbidden!</u></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>	
Policy	<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.</p>	

<p>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 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 15/09/2025	Introduction to the Course	
	European Union: Historical Context (Part I)	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapters 1, 18

Week 2 22/09/2025	European Union: Historical Context (Part II)	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 2
Week 3 29/09/2025	Institutions and Actors: European Commission	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 10
Week 4 06/10/2025	Institutions and Actors: European Council & Council of the European Union	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 11
Week 5 13/10/2025	Institutions and Actors: European Parliament	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 12
Week 6 20/10/2025	Policymaking	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 16
Week 7 27/10/2025	Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) & Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 19
Week 8	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 9 03/11/2025	Key Issues in EU Foreign Policy	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 5
Week 10 10/11/2025	State Flag Day	
Week 11 17/11/2025	EU and its neighbourhood	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 11

Week 12 24/11/2025	EU Membership Negotiations with Turkey: Entrapped Forever?	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 11
Week 13 08/12/2025	EU relations with Russia, the U.S. & China	Keukeleire, S., & Delreux, T. (2022). The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd ed.). Red Globe Press / Macmillan International Higher Education, Chapter 12
Week 14 16/12/2025	Future of the EU	Cini, M., & Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, N. (2022), European Union Politics (7th ed.), Oxford University Press, Chapter 29
Week 15 16/12/2025	Concluding Lecture	
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.