

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 469 Foundations International Security 3KU / 6ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Level	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2025
	Instructor	Ilaha Chiragova
	E-mail:	ilaha.chiragova@khazar.org
	Phone:	
	Classroom/hours	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites		
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective		
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alan Collins (2016): Contemporary Security Studies, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2. Roland Dannreuther (2013): International Security: The Contemporary Agenda, 2nd edition. Cambridge and Malden: Polity. 3. Paul D. Williams (ed.) (2013): Security Studies: An Introduction, 2nd edition. Abingdon and New York: Routledge. 4. Barry Buzan and Lene Hansen (2009): The Evolution of International Security Studies, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 5. Guillaume, Xavier, and Kyle Grayson (2023). Security Studies: Critical Perspectives. Oxford University Press. 6. Baylis, J., Wirtz, J., Cohen, E., Gray, C. (2002) Strategy in the Contemporary World. Oxford University Press. 7. Baldwin, D. A. (2016). <i>Power and International Relations: A Conceptual Approach</i>. Princeton University Press <p><i>Note: Additional core and optional readings will be provided by the instructor every week.</i></p>	
Course outline	<p>The course starts with the attempt to define international security, followed by a short introduction into the evolution of the discipline of Security Studies. It thoroughly considers foundational concepts, historical evolution, theoretical debates, and contemporary challenges within the field of international security. Moving beyond traditional military-centrist views, it explores the broadening scope of security to include economic, environmental, human, and societal dimensions. The course emphasizes critical thinking about how international security is defined, who or what is secured, and the policy implications of different approaches. Moreover, the course will provide a theoretical and conceptual scaffolding for analyzing contemporary world politics through the lens of security.</p>	
Course objectives	<p>The course is designed to equip students with a sophisticated analytical toolkit for understanding foundations of international security. It discusses key practical and theoretical concerns that define the discipline, main theoretical debates, and key concepts that organize the disciplinary field.</p>	

Learning outcomes	<p>Upon completing the course, the students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) understand the disciplinary logic of Security Studies and its evolution 2) understand the key dividing lines between diverse paradigms 3) applying the theoretical knowledge into the today's practice of world politics 4) being able to differentiate and deeply evaluate contemporary and emerging threats and challenges 5) improving their ability to comprehend events and their true causes behind the official rhetoric 		
Assessment	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm evaluation	TBD by the Dean's Office	30
	Attendance		5
	Quiz	Weekly	5
	Policy memo		5
	Presentation	Weekly	5
	Case study-paper		10
	Final exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	Total		100
Requirements	<p>This mix of assignments covers the three main ways the student to be assessed in current course: factual knowledge, critical analysis, and communication skills. Through these assignments, students will develop academic proficiency in research, critical analysis, and structured argumentation, while simultaneously honing the policy-making skills essential for translating complex information into concise, actionable recommendations for professional environments.</p> <p>Quizzes (5%) serve as an essential diagnostic tool, assessing students' mastery of foundational knowledge, including core concepts, theoretical frameworks, and pivotal historical events. They ensure consistent engagement with assigned course materials and lectures.</p> <p>A policy memo (5%), as a practical exercise, cultivates the ability to synthesize intricate data into a clear, concise, and actionable recommendation tailored for a specific high-level audience, such as a government official or a policy maker. This skill is fundamental for professional success in the international security domain.</p> <p>The presentation (5%) is mapped out to enhance students' capacity for communicating nuanced ideas effectively. It requires them to synthesize complex information and articulate it with logical coherence.</p> <p>The case-study paper (10%) provides an opportunity for students to conduct an in-depth exploration of a real-world security issue. This assignment requires the application of course theories and concepts to analyze a specific event, conflict, or policy decision, thereby demonstrating the student's ability to perform independent research and construct a well-supported, scholarly argument and to test how well did they absorb the course materials.</p>		

<p>Policy</p>	<p>To foster a successful and rigorous learning environment, students are expected to adhere to the following academic standards:</p> <p>Active and consistent participation is a fundamental expectation, as the course is designed as a combined lecture and seminar, requiring thoughtful student engagement. It is therefore essential that all assigned and supplementary readings are completed prior to each session to facilitate informed classroom discussions. Furthermore, all students are required to produce well-researched and intellectually rigorous written work and presentations. Lastly, adherence to all assignment guidelines and the punctual submission of all coursework by the specified deadlines is mandatory.</p> <p>Class attendance:</p> <p>Adherence to Khazar University's attendance policy is a mandatory requirement for all full-time students. Regular class attendance is expected, and any deviation from this standard will be considered an unapproved absence unless it is due to a documented illness or has received explicit, prior authorization from the course instructor. To be designated as an approved absence, students are required to submit a formal request in anticipation of their non-attendance.</p> <p>It is imperative that students maintain an unapproved absence rate below 25% of the total class hours to remain eligible for examinations. Should a student exceed this threshold, their eligibility for the exam is forfeited, and re-instatement can only occur with the direct approval of the School Dean. Furthermore, a sustained pattern of unapproved absences or insufficient participation may result in administrative withdrawal from the course.</p> <p>Academic misconduct:</p> <p>Maintaining the integrity of Khazar University is predicated upon a steadfast commitment to academic honesty. As such, all students are obligated to recognize and adhere to the highest standards of intellectual and scholarly integrity. The following behaviors are expressly proscribed and, if substantiated, will be subject to disciplinary action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Plagiarism</i> - <i>Cheating</i> - <i>Unauthorized Collaboration</i> - <i>Falsification</i> - <i>Multiple Submissions</i> <p>Plagiarism:</p> <p>Students in this class are expected to know and follow the University rules regarding plagiarism. Plagiarism is regarded as a serious breach of academic integrity and constitutes a fundamental offense under the University's regulations. All students are responsible for becoming fully acquainted with the policies governing plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct.</p> <p>Plagiarism is defined as the unauthorized use of another person's words, ideas, or intellectual property without proper attribution. Any student found to have engaged in plagiaristic activities, as well as any student who knowingly provides materials that are used for such an offense, will receive an automatic grade of zero (0) for the respective assignment. All external words and ideas must be clearly acknowledged through the use of quotation marks for direct quotes and a full citation within the text or a footnote. Furthermore, all submitted essays must be accompanied by a comprehensive bibliography of all sources used.</p>
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Rules of Professional Conduct: Professional conduct is a foundational principle for maintaining a productive and respectful academic environment. Students are therefore expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to learning for all members of the community. Behavior that substantially impedes either the instructor's ability to deliver the course content or the ability of other students to benefit from the program is strictly prohibited. In cases where a student's conduct is so disruptive as to necessitate immediate action, the instructor is authorized to remove the student from the class on an interim basis, pending an official administrative review.		
Tentative Schedule		
Date/Day (subject to change if necessary)	Topics	Readings
Week 1 18.09.25	Introduction to Security Studies. Course overview and requirements.	1. Alan Collins (2016): Contemporary Security Studies, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2. Paul D. Williams (ed.) (2013): Security Studies: An Introduction, 2nd edition. Abingdon and New York: Routledge. 3. Baldwin, D. (1997) 'The concept of security', Review of International Studies 23(1) pp. 5–26. 4. Barry Buzan and Lene Hansen (2009): The Evolution of International Security Studies, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Week 2 25.09.25	Security through the lens of Realism and Liberalism	1. Aydin, C. & O. Cakir. (2025) "War in International Politics: Competing Explanations from Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism." All Multidisciplinary Journal. 2. Chandio, N. A., F. H. Mahesar, & Inayatullah. (2025) "Application Of Realism and Liberalism Approaches of International Relations to the Traditional Security Dynamics." Journal of Political Stability Archiv. 3. Mearsheimer, John J. (2024) "Liberalism and World Order in Light of Geopolitical Philosophy." 4. Husain, K. (2024) "Understanding Realism and Liberalism Theory of International Relations in Globalisation Era." Journal of Administrative Sciences.
Week 3 02.10.25	Constructivist and critical approaches to security	1. Berger, T. U. (2011). Norms, identity, and national security. In <i>Security Studies</i> (pp. 187-190). Routledge. 2. Fierke, K. M. (2015). <i>Critical approaches to international security</i> . John Wiley & Sons. 3. Uglea, C. T. (2015). Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith (eds.), International Relations Theories. Discipline and Diversity , Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013. <i>Romanian Journal of History and International Studies</i> , 2(2), 285-289. 4. Booth, K. (2018). Security and emancipation. In <i>National and international security</i> (pp. 447-460). Routledge.

Week 4 09.10.25	Sociological approaches to the study of security: the nexus of internal and external security	<p>1. Buzan, B. (1998). Security: A New Framework for Analysis. <i>Lynne Rienner</i>.</p> <p>2. Bigo, D. (2006). Internal and external aspects of security. <i>European security</i>, 15(4), 385-404.</p> <p>3. Williams, P. D. (2012). Security studies: An introduction. In <i>Security Studies</i> (pp. 23-34). Routledge.</p>
Week 5 16.10.25	Securitization, de-securitization and politization	<p>1. Balzacq, T. (2010). A theory of securitization: origins, core assumptions, and variants. In <i>Securitization Theory</i> (pp. 15-44). Routledge.</p> <p>2. Buzan, B. (1983). People, states, and fear: The national security problem in international relations.</p> <p>3. Balzacq, T. (2019). Securitization theory: Past, present, and future. <i>Polity</i>, 51(2), 331-348.</p> <p>4. Tkaczyk, M. (2017). Between politicization and securitization: Coverage of the European migration crisis in Czech online news media. <i>Communication Today</i>, 8(2), 90-111.</p>
Week 6 23.10.25	Security and Power Measuring power of the states Polarities	<p>1. Kaarbo, J. & Lee Ray, J. (2008) Global Politics. Cengage Learning. <u>Chapter 4</u>.</p> <p>2. Baldwin, D. A. (2016). <i>Power and International Relations: A Conceptual Approach</i>. Princeton University Press.</p> <p>3. Caporaso, J. A. (1978). Dependence, Dependency, and Power in the Global System: A Structural and Behavioral Analysis. <i>International Organization</i>, 32(1), 13-43.</p> <p>4. Guzzini, S. (2005). The Concept of Power: a Constructivist Analysis. <i>Millennium</i>, 33(3), 495-521.</p>
Week 7 30.10.25	Actors Institutions and Grand Strategy	<p>1. Gaddis, J. L. (2019). <i>On grand strategy</i>. Penguin.</p> <p>2. Martel, W. C. (2015). <i>Grand strategy in theory and practice: the need for an effective American foreign policy</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>3. Stokes, H. I. S. (2002). John J. Mearsheimer, The tragedy of great power politics, Nueva York, WW</p> <p>4. Wivel, A. (2021). The grand strategies of small states.</p>
Week 8 06.11.25	Expanding dimensions of security	<p>1. Kirk, J. (2023). <i>More Than a Health Crisis: Securitization and the US Response to the 2013-2016 Ebola Outbreak</i>. MIT Press.</p> <p>2. Jakešević, R., & Tatalović, S. (2016). Securitization (and de-securitization) of the European refugee crisis: Croatia in the regional context. <i>Teorija in praksa</i>, 53(5).</p>
Week 9 13.11.25	Contemporary and emerging security challenges. The transformation of war. Terrorism. Weapons of mass destruction. Ethnic conflicts	<p>1. Kydd, A. H., & Walter, B. F. (2006). The strategies of terrorism. <i>International security</i>, 31(1), 49-80.</p> <p>2. Van Creveld, M. (2010). <i>Technology and war: From 2000 BC to the present</i>. Simon and Schuster.</p> <p>3. Cooper, D. A. (2021). <i>Arms control for the third nuclear age: Between disarmament and Armageddon</i>. Georgetown University Press.</p> <p>4. Jesse, N. G., & Williams, K. P. (2010). <i>Ethnic conflict: a systematic approach to cases of conflict</i>. CQ Press.</p>
Week 10 20.11.25	MIDTERM EXAM	

Week 11 27.11.25	Cybersecurity. Artificial Intelligence. Information Warfare	1. Van Puyvelde, D., & Brantly, A. F. (2024). <i>Cybersecurity: politics, governance and conflict in cyberspace</i> . John Wiley & Sons. 2. Valeriano, B., & Maness, R. C. (2015). <i>Cyber war versus cyber realities: Cyber conflict in the international system</i> . Oxford University Press. 3. Myriam Dunn Cavelty, "Securitizing the Digital Sphere," <i>Journal of Strategic Studies</i> , 2008
Week 12 04.12.25	Climate change and resource scarcity. Health in(security)	1. Dalby, S. (2009). <i>Security and environmental change</i> . Polity. 2. McDonald, M. (2012). <i>Security, the Environment and Emancipation: Contestation over environmental change</i> . Routledge. 3. Azzarita, O. C. (2021). Putting the "Crisis" in "Climate Crisis": The Impact of Securitization on Climate Change Policy.
Week 13 11.12.25	The role of domestic institutions. Global and regional institutions	1. Doyle, M. W. (1986). Liberalism and world politics. <i>American political science review</i> , 80(4), 1151-1169. 2. Fearon, J. D. (1994). Domestic political audiences and the escalation of international disputes. <i>American political science review</i> , 88(3), 577-592. 3. Kirchner, E. J., & Dominguez, R. (Eds.). (2013). <i>The security governance of regional organizations</i> (Vol. 58). Routledge. 4. Mearsheimer, J. J. (2017). The false promise of international institutions. In <i>International organization</i> (pp. 237-282). Routledge.
Week 14 18.12.25	Geopolitics and Strategy. Game theory	1. Kaplan, R. D. (2009). The revenge of geography. <i>Foreign Policy</i> , (172), 96-105. 2. Schelling, T. C. (1980). <i>The Strategy of Conflict: with a new Preface by the Author</i> . Harvard university press. 3. Schelling, T. C. (2008). Arms and influence. In <i>Strategic Studies</i> (pp. 96-114). Routledge.
Week 15 25.12.25	Concluding Remarks and Discussion	Preparation for the exam
	Final	

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.