

<b>Identification</b>	<b>Subject (code, title, credits)</b>	<b>PSIR 404: Foundation of National and International Security</b> 3KU / 6ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	<b>Department</b>	<b>Political Science and Philosophy</b>
	<b>Level</b>	Undergraduate
	<b>Term</b>	Fall 2025
	<b>Instructor</b>	Mahammad Mammadov
	<b>E-mail:</b>	mammadov.mahammad@khazar.org
	<b>Phone:</b>	
	<b>Classroom/hours</b>	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)
	<b>Office hours</b>	By appointment
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Basic knowledge of Political History (19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> centuries) Basic understanding of IR theories	
<b>Language</b>	<b>English</b>	
<b>Compulsory/Elective</b>		
<b>Required textbooks and course materials</b>	<p><b>Core readings:</b></p> <p>Kaarbo, J. &amp; Lee Ray, J. (2008) Global Politics. Cengage Learning.</p> <p>E.H. Carr (1939/2001). The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919–1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations. New York: Palgrave.</p> <p>Beate, J. (2018) “Liberal Internationalism: Historical Trajectory and Current Prospects,” International Affairs, Vol. 94.</p> <p><i>Note: Additional core and suggested readings will be provided by the instructor every week.</i></p>	
<b>Course outline</b>	<p>This course introduces students to the key concepts, debates, and issues in the study of national and international security. It begins by tracing the evolution of security studies as a field, from the classical realist focus on power and military affairs to the broadened, post–Cold War approaches that include human, economic, environmental, and societal dimensions. The course combines classical theories of international relations (realism, liberalism, constructivism, critical approaches) with contemporary security challenges, such as terrorism, ethnic conflict, nuclear proliferation, cyber threats, and great-power competition. Through a combination of lectures, seminar discussions, and case studies, students will be encouraged to critically evaluate different schools of thought, question conventional wisdom, and connect theoretical frameworks to real-world policy dilemmas.</p>	
<b>Course objectives</b>	<p>This course aims to introduce students to the field of national and international security in a way that combines theoretical grounding with practical relevance. It familiarizes students with the core concepts,</p>	

	frameworks, and debates that have shaped the study of security, while also reflecting on how these ideas apply to contemporary global challenges. By moving between classical approaches and modern developments, the course encourages students to see security not only as a matter of military power but also as a multidimensional issue that encompasses political, societal, economic, and technological dimensions. Above all, the course is designed to cultivate an informed, critical, and engaged perspective on how states and societies seek to manage threats, maintain order, and pursue stability in an increasingly complex world.		
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	By the end of the semester, students will have developed a clear understanding of the central themes and theoretical traditions of security studies and will be able to apply these to both historical and current events. They will demonstrate the ability to explain and critically assess ideas such as power, the balance of power, the security dilemma, alliances, deterrence, and human security, and to connect these concepts with real-world examples ranging from terrorism and ethnic conflict to nuclear strategy and cyber warfare. Students will also strengthen their skills in independent research, analytical writing, and oral communication, enabling them to present well-structured arguments and policy-relevant insights. Ultimately, they will emerge from the course with the capacity to think critically about competing perspectives on international security and to engage confidently in both academic and policy debates.		
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Date/deadlines</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
	<b>Midterm evaluation</b>	TBD by the Dean's Office	30
	<b>Class attendance</b>		10
	<b>Presentation</b>	TBD by the Instructor	15
	<b>Quiz</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> week	5
	<b>Final exam</b>	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	<b>Total</b>		100
<b>Policy</b>	<p>Students are expected to attend classes regularly, since each session combines elements of lecture and seminar and depends on active participation from everyone. To make the most of this format, readings—both required and recommended—should be completed before class, providing the basis for informed engagement with the material. Active participation in discussion is an essential part of the learning process, as are thoughtful and well-prepared presentations and written assignments. All coursework should be submitted by the designated deadlines, and careful attention should be paid to the instructions and requirements of each assignment.</p> <p><b>Class attendance:</b></p> <p>Attendance is an essential component of this course and is governed by the attendance regulations of Khazar University. Full-time students are expected to be present for all class meetings, except in cases of illness or when prior approval has been granted by the instructor. Requests for excused absences</p>		

<p>should be submitted in advance; otherwise, the absence will be treated as unapproved.</p> <p>To remain eligible for examinations, students must not exceed 25% of unapproved absences. If this threshold is crossed, the student may only be permitted to sit the exam with the explicit consent of the School Dean. Persistent unapproved absences or a pattern of non-participation may result in withdrawal from the course.</p> <p><b>Academic misconduct</b>          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>          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><b>Rules of Professional Conduct</b>          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>		
<b>Tentative Schedule</b>		
<b>Date/Day</b> (subject to change if necessary)	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 17.09.25	<b>Introduction: What is Security?</b>	Kaarbo & Ray, Global Politics (Ch. 1: "Introduction to Global Politics")

		Carr, The Twenty Years' Crisis (Introduction)
<b>Week 2</b> 24.09.25	<b>Levels of Analysis in International Relations</b>	<p>Kaarbo &amp; Ray (Ch. 3: "Levels of Analysis and the Study of Global Politics")</p> <p>Carr, Twenty Years' Crisis (Part I, Ch. 1–2: "The Beginning of a Science" / "Utopia and Reality")</p> <p>Optional reading: Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations"</p>
<b>Week 3</b> 01.10.25	<b>Liberal Internationalism</b>	<p>Beate, J. (2018) "Liberal Internationalism: Historical Trajectory and Current Prospects," International Affairs, Vol. 94</p> <p><a href="https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/images/ia/INTA94_1_4_231_Jahn.pdf">https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/images/ia/INTA94_1_4_231_Jahn.pdf</a></p>
<b>Week 4</b> 08.10.25	<b>Realist Approach: Balance of Power</b>	<p>Kaarbo, J. &amp; Lee Ray, J. (2008) Global Politics. Cengage Learning. <u>Chapter 4.</u></p>
<b>Week 5</b> 15.10.25	<b>Security Dilemma</b>	<p><i>Kaarbo &amp; Ray</i> (Ch. 6: "Conflict and Cooperation under Anarchy")</p>
<b>Week 6</b> 22.10.25	<b>War, Conflict, and Ethnic Violence</b>	<p>Kaarbo &amp; Ray (Ch. 8: "The Causes of War and Conditions for Peace")</p> <p>Carr, Twenty Years' Crisis (Part V: "Conclusion")</p>
<b>Week 7</b> 29.10.25	<b>Terrorism and Asymmetric Warfare</b>	<p>Kaarbo &amp; Ray (Ch. 9: "Terrorism, Non-State Actors, and Asymmetric Conflict")</p>
<b>Week 8</b> 05.11.25	<b>Alliances and Collective Security</b>	<p>Kaarbo &amp; Ray (Ch. 7: "Alliances, Collective Security, and International Organizations")</p> <p>Carr, Twenty Years' Crisis (Part IV, Ch. 10–11: "The Foundations of Law" / "The Sanctity of Treaties")</p>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Nuclear Strategy and</b>	<p>Kaarbo &amp; Ray (Ch. 10: "Nuclear Weapons,</p>

12.11.25	<b>Weapons of Mass Destruction</b>	Deterrence, and Arms Control")
<b>Week 10</b> 19.11.25	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
<b>Week 11</b> 26.11.25	<b>Human Security and Non-Traditional Threats</b>	Kaarbo & Ray (Ch. 11: "Human Security, Development, and the Environment")
<b>Week 12</b> 03.12.25	<b>Geopolitics and Grand Strategy</b>	Zbigniew Brzezinski. <i>The Grand Chessboard</i> "  Tim Marshall: <i>Prisoners of Geography</i> (Chapters will be divided among the groups of students)
<b>Week 13</b> 10.12.25	<b>International Law, Institutions, and Norms</b>	Kaarbo & Ray (Ch. 14: "International Law and Global Governance")  Carr, Twenty Years' Crisis (Part IV, Ch. 12: "The Judicial Settlement of International Disputes")
<b>Week 14</b> 17.12.25	<b>Students Presentations</b>	Students are required to deliver case-study presentations, with each presentation not exceeding 15 minutes in length.
<b>Week 15</b> 24.12.25	<b>Concluding Remarks and Discussion</b>	Preparation for the exam
	<b>Final</b>	