

Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 360: Political Theories and Ideologies 4KU / 6ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
Department	Political Science & Philosophy
Level	Undergraduate
Term	Fall 2025
Instructor	Assoc. Prof. Orkhan Valiyev
E-mail:	ovaliyev@khazar.org
Classroom/hours	Neftchilar campus, Room: 203N; 15:20; 17:00
Office hours	By appointment
Language	English
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political theory: An introduction</i>. 4th edition. Bloomsbury Publishing. • Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideologies</i>. 7th edition. Bloomsbury Publishing. <p>Supplementary sources :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brennan, J. (2016). <i>Political philosophy: An introduction</i>. Cato Institute. • Kymlicka, W. (2002). <i>Contemporary political philosophy: An introduction</i>. Oxford University Press. • Goodin, R. E., Pettit, P., & Pogge, T. W. (Eds.). (2007). <i>A companion to contemporary political philosophy</i> (Vol. 105). John Wiley & Sons. • <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> https://plato.stanford.edu/
Course outline	In this course, we will become acquainted with the basic concepts of political theory and ideologies. We will discuss central topics such as justice, state, law, rights, freedom, etc., as well as ideologies such as utilitarianism, liberalism, Marxism, nationalism, and communitarianism.
Course objectives	<p>The main aim of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to moral and political philosophy, i.e. to familiarize students with the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ basic concepts and theories of ethics and political philosophy.

Learning outcomes	By the end of the course students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Demonstrate an effective use of political concepts; ❖ Raise questions concerning the meaning of political and ideological concepts; ❖ Apply critical reasoning and analytical thinking to a broad range of political and ideological issues, as well as attempt to think systematically of them; ❖ Reflect on the more fundamental questions that emerge in a variety of political and ideological cases; 	
Grading	Methods	Percentage %
	Class Attendance & Active Participation	20%
	Quiz 1	10%
	Quiz 2	10%
	Midterm exam	30%
	Final exam	30%
	Total	100
Assessment	<p>Course assessment is conducted through active participation, case study discussions, quizzes, and written midterm and final examinations.</p> <p><u>Active Participation & Case-Study Discussions:</u> Students following this course are not simply expected to listen and memorize the lectures but to study the reading materials well; engage in discussions; and be able to demonstrate and debate his/her viewpoints.</p> <p><u>Quiz:</u> 20 multiple-choice questions on topics taught during the semester</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>	
	<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. 	

Policy

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 (*approved absence*).

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 **25%** of class hours (*unapproved absences*). 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.

Academic misconduct

Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognize and uphold high intellectual and academic integrity standards. The following acts are examples of academic dishonesty and, therefore are strictly forbidden and will, if proven, be penalized:

- plagiarism,
- cheating,
- unauthorized collaboration,
- falsification,
- multiple submissions.

On plagiarism:

Plagiarism is unethical and an offense 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 proper 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.

!!!NOTE!!! The use of AI tools for assignments and examinations is strictly prohibited.

Rules of Professional Conduct

The students shall behave in a way to creates a favorable academic and professional environment during 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.

Tentative Schedule		
Date/Day	Topics	Readings
Week 1 16/09/2025	Introduction to the Course	
	Introduction: What is political theory? Understanding Political Ideologies	Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political Theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 1-13; Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideology: An Introduction</i> . pp. 1-19.
Week 2 23/09/2025	Human Nature, the Individual and Society	Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political Theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 13-47.
Week 3 30/09/2025	Politics, Government, and the State	1. Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political Theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 47-81.
Week 4 07/10/2025	Sovereignty, the Nation and Transnationalism	Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political Theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 81-109.
Week 5 14/10/2025	Democracy and Representation Quiz 1	Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political Theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 142-174. https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/democracy/
Week 6 21/10/2025	Rights, Obligations and Citizenship	Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political Theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 206-237.
Week 7 28/10/2025	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 8 04/11/2025	Freedom, Toleration and Identity	Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political Theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 237-268.
Week 9 11/11/2025	Property, the Market, and Planning	Heywood, A. (2015). <i>Political theory: An Introduction</i> . pp. 297-324.

Week 10 18/11/2025	Liberalism	Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideology: An Introduction</i> . pp. 19-49.
Week 11 25/11/2025	Socialism and Anarchism	Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideology: An Introduction</i> . pp. 75-124
Week 12 02/12/2025	Nationalism	Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideology: An Introduction</i> . pp. 124-148.
		https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nationalism/
Week 13 09/12/2025	Fascism and Populism Quiz 2	Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideology: An Introduction</i> . pp. 148-186.
Week 14 16/12/2025	Feminism and Ecologism	Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideology: An Introduction</i> . pp. 186-225.
Week 15 23/12/2025	Multiculturalism Why Political Ideologies Matters	Heywood, A. (2021). <i>Political Ideology: An Introduction</i> . pp. 225-245; 266-272. https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/multiculturalism/
	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.