

<b>Identification</b>	<b>Subject (Code, title, credits)</b>	<b>PSIR 450: Comparative Politics</b> 3 Khazar 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>	Dr. Rail Safiyev
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	<b>Phone:</b>	
	<b>Classroom/hours</b>	Neftçilər, 41 Mahsati str., or virtually via Microsoft Teams
	<b>Office hours</b>	TBA
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None	
<b>Language</b>	<b>English</b>	
<b>Compulsory/Elective</b>	Compulsory	
<b>Required textbooks and course materials</b>	<p><b>Core readings:</b></p> <p>Caramani, Daniele (2023) Comparative Politics, Oxford University Press</p> <p>Landman, T., &amp; Carvalho, E. (2016). Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction (4th ed.). Routledge.</p> <p>Lijphart, Arend. 1999. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven CT: Yale University Press.</p> <p>Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning.</p> <p>Deth, J. V. &amp; Newton, K. (2010) Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge</p> <p>Siarroff, A. (2013) Comparing Political Regimes. University of Toronto Press</p> <p><b>Supplementary readings:</b></p> <p>Supplementary materials come from a broad as well as a multi-disciplinary range of academic articles and official documents. Students will be provided with these materials either in electronic form or in hard copies.</p>	
<b>Course outline</b>	<p>Comparative politics analyzes differences in political regimes, governance structures, electoral systems, policy outcomes, and public administration across countries, regions, or time periods. The course will help students in searching to explain why different political systems have similarities or differences and how developmental changes came to be between them. Students will learn to look for trends, patterns, and regularities among these</p>	

	political systems. Comparative Politics takes into account political systems throughout the globe, focusing on themes such as democratization, globalization, and integration.
<b>Course objectives</b>	<p><b>This course/module aims to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help students understand and distinguish between various political systems and regime types, including: Democracies, Presidential, Parliamentary, Hybrid, Authoritarianism, Totalitarianism</li> <li>• Enable students to formulate valid generalizations and comparative insights about government structures and political processes across different countries and regions</li> </ul> <p><b>explore and debate key issues in political systems, particularly:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is a presidential or parliamentary democracy a better choice for newly democratic regimes?</li> <li>• What are the advantages and disadvantages of consensus democracy vs. majoritarian democracy?</li> <li>• What is civil society, and how does it function in different countries—particularly in Eastern Europe?</li> <li>• Why have there been so few totalitarian regimes?</li> <li>• Can an authoritarian regime gain widespread popular support? If so, how?</li> <li>• What are the key differences between totalitarianism and authoritarianism?</li> <li>• What are the problems associated with coalition governance?</li> <li>• What is the presidentialization of politics, and what are its implications for democratic accountability?</li> <li>• Do electoral systems shape party systems? How do they influence political outcomes?</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>After the completion of the course, students:</p> <p>possesses a broad knowledge of central methodological concepts of comparative politics; political regime;; regime consolidation; civil society), theories (theory of regime change, survival and breakdown;), research questions and research traditions in the study of methods democratization, scholarly tools (how to conceptualize a comparative research and use varieties</p>

	<p>of data) and methods for analyzing qualitative and quantitative data in the study of political regimes and regime change.</p> <p>gets familiar with foundational literature (classic and contemporary research) as well as cutting-edge developments in the scholarly literature within the field of study concerning comparative politics;</p> <p>can update and extend existing knowledge in the study of regime dynamics in post-Soviet region</p>	
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
	<b>Midterm written exam (based on 50% of the content)</b>	35
	<b>Final written exam (based on 100% of the content)</b>	35
	<b>Small academic paper</b>	8
	<b>Presentation</b>	12
	<b>Active Participation</b>	10
	<b>Total</b>	100
<b>Policy</b>	<p><b>Paper:</b></p> <p>During the length of the course, the students will be offered to write a small compulsory paper (no less and no more than 10 pages, 13 Times New Roman font, line spacing: 1,5, the volume includes bibliography pages, but does not include cover page and table of content. The paper represents maximum 20% of the final grade out of 100; submission deadline: <b>10 December 2025</b>; grace period – 3 days, reducing the mark for the paper by correspondingly 1, 2 and 3 points; on the course-related topic of the student's choice (the topic must be approved by the instructor). The overall % to be awarded to the student by the instructor will be worked out from the following 7 different segments: paperformat, argument/research question's/methodology visibility in the text, discussion, conclusion, academic English, citations style, and bibliography.</p> <p><b>Exams:</b></p> <p>The midterms written exam (80 minutes) will be based on the 50% of the course-associated content, while for the final written exam (80 minutes) the students must be ready to exhibit their knowledge of 100% of the course's content. On both occasions, in clear hand-writing and using academic style in</p>	

	<p>the process of outlining thoughts, facts and ideas, students will be required to answer to 5 questions (for the midterm exam) and to 5 questions (for the final exam). A fair method of choosing the exam questions will be explained in details before the event. The criteria of awarding a particular % for any of the two exams are as follows:</p> <p>“0 – 6 %” - The student fully and thoroughly answers one of the three questions, but does not give any answer to the remaining question; Or the student does not appear to have an ability to establish causal connections between different events; Or the student has no sufficient competence in conceptualisation the phenomenon of integration, or theory building in the area of political science; “7 – 12%” - The student attempts to answer all three questions and demonstrate that the basic understanding of the phenomenon under study as well as concepts existing in the field of political science, while causal connections between different events have been understood with non-significant factual errors;</p> <p>“13 – 18%” – The student gives suitable answers to all three questions, showing her/his understanding of the phenomenon-associated politico-historic processes, while making attempts to conceptualise those with paradigms of international relations. Small factual errors are noticed.</p> <p>“19 – 24%” – The student gives suitable answers to all three questions, showing her/his above-average understanding of the the phenomenon-associated politico-historic processes, while making successful attempts to conceptualise those with paradigms of international relations. No factual errors are noticed.</p> <p>“25 – 30%” – The student gives thorough answers to all three questions in a well-structured and well-presented academic manner. Very good conceptual thinking is noticed.</p> <p>“31 – 35%” – The student offers her/his comprehensive insight into the fundamental issues related to the three questions, demonstrates outstanding competence in integration studies-focused conceptualisation and theory building in the field. The student’s in-depth knowledge of the relevant literature, international vision, socio-cultural understanding and familiarity with the field’s tools and techniques are noticed.</p>
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**General notes:**

Students following this course are not simply expected to listen and memorize the lectures but to study the reading materials well, to engage in class discussions and small group-works, and be able to demonstrate and debate his/her viewpoints. Therefore, students are expected to:

- attend classes on a regular basis as the classess are conducted in a combined lecture/seminat format where students should take an active part.
- read the assigned and suggested materials before coming to class
- engage actively in classroom discussions
- offer thoughtful and informed classroom presentations and written work

Students are required to comply with the attendance policy of Khazar University. Full-time students are expected to attend all classes unless they are on sick leave or have the permission of the instructor (*approved absence*). A student must submit a justifies absence request (either in person or via email) in anticipation of an absence from a particular class. In case if she/he fails to do so, her/his absence will be considered unapproved. Specifically, to be eligible for final grading, a student must not miss more than 25% of class hours (*unapproved absences*). Continuing unapproved absences or lack of participation may lead to dismissal from the course.

**Academic misconduct**

Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognise 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 penalised:

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

Plagiarism is unethical in its nature and, thus, it is considered an offence under the University regulations. Please familiarise yourself with the regulations

<p>relating to plagiarism.</p> <p>Plagiarism is copying other people's work without <u>proper</u> attribution. The students committing plagiarism and the students providing materials for plagiarising will automatically receive a zero (0%) for the course. 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 the end of the paper.</p> <p><b>Rules of Professional Conduct</b></p> <p>The students shall behave in the way to create favorable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorised discussions and unethical behaviour are strictly prohibited. Classroom behaviour 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-related programme will not be tolerated. When a student's behaviour 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 behaviour.</p>		
Schedule		
Date/Day (subject to change if there is a justified necessity)	Topics	Readings
<b>Week 1</b> <b>16.09.24</b>	Why to compare in Political Science? What is Comparative Politics all about?	Caramani, Daniele (2023) Comparative Politics, Oxford University Press
<b>Week 2</b> <b>23.09.24</b>	The method of Comparative Politics	Caramani, Daniele (2023) Comparative Politics, Oxford University Press
<b>Week 3</b> <b>30.10.24</b>	Approaches in Comparative Politics	Caramani, Daniele (2023) Comparative Politics, Oxford University Press
<b>Week 4</b> <b>07.10.24</b>	Comparing many and few countries	Landman, T., & Carvalho, E. (2016). Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction (4th ed.). Routledge

<b>Week 5</b> <b>14.10.24</b>	Economic Development and Democracy	Landman, T., & Carvalho, E. (2016). Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction (4th ed.). Routledge
<b>Week 6</b> <b>21.10.24</b>	Transition to Democracy	Landman, T., & Carvalho, E. (2016). Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction (4th ed.). Routledge
<b>Week 7</b> <b>28.10.24</b>	Classifying Political Systems Political Regimes Democratic Change and Persistence	Acil, Murat Başkanlık Sisteminde Koalisyonlar/ Coalitions in Presidential System Türkiye Barolar Birliği Dergisi 2020, Issue 149, p. 1-50 <a href="https://tbbdergisi.barobirlik.org.tr/Dergi/Dergi149/10/">https://tbbdergisi.barobirlik.org.tr/Dergi/Dergi149/10/</a> Materials will be provided as a separate document
<b>Week 8</b> <b>04.11.24</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> <b>11.11.24</b>	<b>Holiday/ no class</b>	
<b>Week 10</b> <b>18.11.24</b>	Comparing Social Revolution and violent political dissent	Landman, T., & Carvalho, E. (2016). Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction (4th ed.). Routledge
<b>Week 11</b> <b>25.11.24</b>	Comparing Party Systems & Electoral systems	Caramani, Daniele (2023) Comparative Politics, Oxford University Press Moser, R. G. (1998). The electoral effects of presidentialism in post-Soviet Russia. Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics, 14(1–2), 54–75.
<b>Week 12</b> <b>02.12.24</b>	Presidential or Parliamentary Government	Linz, J.J.J. (1990). The Perils of Presidentialism. Journal of Democracy 1(1), 51-69. Lijphart, Arend. 1999. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven CT: Yale University Press.

		Carey, J.M. (2008). Presidential versus Parliamentary Government. In: Ménard, C., Shirley, M.M. (eds) Handbook of New Institutional Economics. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-69305-5_6">https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-69305-5_6</a>
<b>Week 13</b> <b>09.12.24</b>	Comparative Analysis In CIS & Russia	Partlett W. (2018) Postsovetskoe superprezidentstvo [Post-Soviet super-presidentialism]. Sravnitel'noe konstitutsionnoe obozrenie, vol.27, no.3, pp.103–123. (In Russian). Blondel, J. 'Presidentialism' in the Ex-Soviet Union. Japanese Journal of Political Science. 2012;13(1):1-36.
<b>Week 14</b> <b>16.12.24</b>	International Relations and Comparative Politics	Landman, T., & Carvalho, E. (2016). Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction (4th ed.). Routledge
<b>Week 15</b> <b>23.12.24</b>	Final Remarks and Discussion	Kesselman, M. et al (2016) Introduction to Comparative Politics. Cengage learning. Deth, J. V. & Newton, K. (2010) Foundations of Comparative Politics. Cambridge Siarroff, A. (2013) Comparing Political Regimes. University of Toronto Press
	<b>Final exam</b>	-

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.*