

<b>Identification</b>	<b>Subject (code, title, credits)</b>	<b>PSIR 614: Transnational Terrorism</b> 3KU / 6ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	<b>Department</b>	<b>Political Science and Philosophy</b>
	<b>Level</b>	Graduate (MA)
	<b>Term</b>	Fall 2025
	<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Vasif Huseynov
	<b>E-mail 1:</b>	<a href="mailto:vhuseynov@khazar.org">vhuseynov@khazar.org</a>
	<b>Classroom/hours</b>	
	<b>Office hours</b>	By appointment
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
<b>Language</b>	<b>English</b>	
<b>Compulsory/Elective</b>		
<b>Required textbooks and course materials</b>	<p><b>Core readings:</b></p> <p>Moskalenko, Sophia, and Clark McCauley. Radicalization to terrorism: What everyone needs to know. Oxford University Press, 2020</p> <p>Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. <i>The Oxford handbook of terrorism</i>. Oxford University Press, 2019.</p> <p>Laqueur, Walter, and Christopher Wall. The future of terrorism: ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and the Alt-Right. Thomas Dunne Books, 2018.</p> <p>Chaliand, Gérard, and Arnaud Blin, eds. The history of terrorism: From antiquity to ISIS. Univ of California Press, 2016.</p> <p>Silke, Andrew, ed. Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Routledge, 2018.</p>	
<b>Course outline</b>	<p>This course explores the origins and historical/conceptual foundation of the phenomenon of terrorism. The course is divided into two parts. The first part, which covers the period from the beginning of the semester until the midterm exam, examines the definition of terrorism, history of the concept, perspectives on causes, and global counterterrorism efforts. The second part of the course, which lasts until the end of the semester, provides the possibility to explore the terrorism and counterterrorism strategies in the practice of some regional states.</p>	
<b>Course objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand various definitions of terrorism</li> <li>• To understand why terrorism occurs</li> <li>• To understand terrorism and counterterrorism in the neighboring countries and the wider region</li> <li>• To understand the fight against terrorism</li> </ul>	

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The course will allow the students to develop profound understanding of the debate on the definition of terrorism and will provide deep insights into the causes and targets of terrorist movements.</li> <li>The course will allow the students to explore the terrorist movements in the region surrounding the South Caucasus and evaluate the counter-terrorist initiatives of international organizations and national governments.</li> </ul>		
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Date/deadlines</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
	<b>Midterm evaluation</b>	To be determined by the Dean's Office	25
	<b>Class attendance</b>		5
	<b>Active participation at the seminars</b>		5
	<b>Case-study PowerPoint presentation</b>		10
	<b>Review Presentation</b>		10
	<b>Paper</b>		10
	<b>Final exam</b>	To be determined by the Dean's Office	35
	<b>Total</b>		100
<b>Assignments</b>	<p>The grades for the course will consist of the following components:</p> <p><i>Final Exam – 30%</i></p> <p>Final Exam will examine your substantial knowledge and analytical understanding of the discipline in a complimentary way. It will be designed to test students' mastery of the subject, and most importantly their ability to apply relevant concepts, perspectives and insights of international security.</p> <p><i>Midterm Exam – 20%</i></p> <p>Midterm Exam will examine your substantial knowledge and analytical understanding of the discipline in a complimentary way. Additionally, it will serve to ensure that you are keeping up with the reading and with the material presented in class.</p> <p><i>Case-study Presentation – 10%</i></p> <p>All the students are expected to make a presentation about a topic agreed with the instructor in advance. The presentation needs to explore a case related with the course agenda and last no longer than 30 minutes. It should have a clear research question, structure and a comprehensive conclusion part. The presentation will be followed by a Q&amp;A session.</p> <p><i>Research paper or, alternatively, a book presentation – 10%</i></p> <p>Students are expected to write a research paper about a topic agreed with the instructor in advance. The paper needs to analyze an issue related with the course agenda. The paper is expected to be between 12-15 pages, written in Times New</p>		

Roman (12). The paper is expected to employ academic methodological tools to explore the research question and base its argumentation with the assistance of theoretical tools learned in the course. The paper is expected to give a summary of the research and findings. Please do not hesitate to consult me (in person, via email) about your papers, if need be. You can use any citation style you are accustomed to.

As another option, students have the opportunity to deliver a book presentation as an alternative to submitting a written paper. The choice of book for the presentation should be approved by the instructor ahead of time. The book presentations are anticipated to encompass the primary arguments and findings put forth in the selected book. Presenters are expected to approach the task critically, highlighting the book's strengths and weaknesses, not only offering an overview of its entire content.

#### *Review Presentation – 10%*

All the students are required to make one or two (depending on the class size) short presentations about the learning outcomes of the previous week. A presentation should last no longer than 15 minutes. The presenter is also expected to develop 3-4 questions for discussions and introduce them to the group at the end of the presentation. The lack of the discussion questions will have negative impact on the grading.

#### *Participation in class discussions – 15%*

15% of your overall grade will be based on the quality of your contributions to our class discussions. Remember that your instructor is not supposed to solely lecture you and our classes will be organized as interactive discussions. If you want to enjoy a memorable and interesting class, please do contribute. However, also remember that the quality of your inputs matters no less. Do not merely speak for the sake of speaking. Any efforts to imitate an “informed student” without in fact having done the homework will be easily discernible. There is a value in bearing this in mind.

#### *Attendance – 5%*

Attendance is defined as physical presence in class. It is an indispensable element of the educational process. In compliance with Azerbaijani legislation, instructors are required to monitor attendance and inform the Registrar and the Dean of the student's respective School when students miss significant amounts of class time. Azerbaijani legislation mandates that students who fail to attend at least 75% of classes will fail the course – in our case, this means that the students with 7 and more (unexcused) absences will fail the course automatically. Your absence can also affect your overall grade, since if you miss a class, you might miss a class discussion. Students who face emergencies, such as the serious illness that makes attendance impossible, or other situations beyond their control that preclude class attendance, should notify the instructor immediately. In addition to attendance, participation in

	class discussions is also a general requirement and students are encouraged to contribute to these discussions.
<b>Policy</b>	<p><b>You are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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>.</li> <li>- read the assigned and suggested readings before you come to class</li> <li>- engage actively in classroom discussions</li> <li>- offer thoughtful and informed classroom presentations and written work</li> <li>- submit all your assignments on time</li> <li>- follow assignments closely and carefully.</li> </ul> <p><b>Class attendance:</b> 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 20% of class hours (<i>unapproved absences</i>). 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.</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 on holidays)	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Week 1</b> <b>19.09.2025</b>	Introduction	<p>Antony Richards (2018) “Defining Terrorism”, in Silke, Andrew, ed. Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Routledge, pp. 13-21.</p> <p>Ariel Merari (2007): “Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency” in “The History of Terrorism: From Antiquity to Al Qaeda” by Gérard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin, pp. 12 - 54.</p>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>26.09.2025</b>	What is radicalization	Moskalenko, Sophia, and Clark McCauley. Radicalization to terrorism: What everyone needs to know. Oxford University Press, 2020: Chapter 1, What is radicalization? ; Chapter 3, How individuals radicalized to join a terrorist group?
<b>Week 3</b> <b>03.10.2025</b>	The History of Terrorism	<p>Gérard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin (2007): “Zealots and Assassins” in “The History of Terrorism: From Antiquity to Al Qaeda” by Gérard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin, pp. 55-78.</p> <p>Gérard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin (2007): “The Invention of Modern Terror” in “The History of Terrorism: From Antiquity to Al Qaeda” by Gérard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin, pp. 95 – 112.</p>
<b>Week 4</b> <b>10.10.2025</b>	Causes of Terrorism	<p>Tore Bjørge &amp; Andrew Silke (2018) “Root causes of terrorism: Myths, reality and ways forward” in Silke, Andrew, ed. Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Routledge, pp. 57-65.</p> <p>Goodwin, J. The Causes of Terrorism, in: Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. The Oxford handbook of terrorism. Oxford University Press, 2019.</p>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>17.10.2025</b>	State Terrorism	Andrew Silke (2018) “State Terrorism” in Silke, Andrew, ed. Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Routledge, pp. 66-73.

		Chapters 22 in: Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. The Oxford handbook of terrorism. Oxford University Press, 2019.
<b>Week 6</b> <b>24.10.2025</b>	Nationalism, Religion, and Terrorism	Chapters 18-19 in: Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. The Oxford handbook of terrorism. Oxford University Press, 2019.
<b>Week 7</b> <b>31.10.2025</b>	Ideology and Terrorism, Single-issue terrorism	Chapters 20-21 in: Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. The Oxford handbook of terrorism. Oxford University Press, 2019.
<b>Week 8</b> <b>07.11.2025</b>	<b>Midterm exam</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> <b>14.11.2025</b>	Terrorism in Western Europe	Chapters 35 in: Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. The Oxford handbook of terrorism. Oxford University Press, 2019.
<b>Week 10</b> <b>21.11.2025</b>	Terrorism in Middle East	Chapters 37 in: Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. The Oxford handbook of terrorism. Oxford University Press, 2019.
<b>Week 11</b> <b>28.11.2025</b>	Armenian Terrorism	Chapter 3: "Armenian Terrorism in the Twentieth Century" in Armenian History and the Question of Genocide by Michael M. Gunter (2011) <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/s/fukkav77i844eyr/Michael%20M.%20Gunter%20%28auth.%29%20-%20Armenian%20History%20and%20the%20Question%20of%20Genocide%20%282011%2C%20Palgrave%20Macmillan%20US%29.pdf?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/s/fukkav77i844eyr/Michael%20M.%20Gunter%20%28auth.%29%20-%20Armenian%20History%20and%20the%20Question%20of%20Genocide%20%282011%2C%20Palgrave%20Macmillan%20US%29.pdf?dl=0</a>
<b>Week 12</b> <b>05.12.2025</b>	Economic consequences of terrorism	Mikel Buesa and Thomas Baumert, "The Economic Impact Of Terrorism" in Silke, Andrew, ed. Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Routledge
<b>Week 13</b> <b>12.12.2025</b>	Counterterrorism strategies	Chapters 40-41-42 in: Chenoweth, Erica, et al., eds. The Oxford handbook of terrorism. Oxford University Press, 2019.
<b>Week 14</b>	De-radicalization	Moskalenko, Sophia, and Clark McCauley. Radicalization to terrorism: What everyone needs to know. Oxford University Press, 2020: Chapter 9: Is It Possible to Prevent Radicalization

<b>19.12.2025</b>		to Terrorism?; Chapter 10: Is It Possible to Deradicalize Terrorists?
<b>Week 15</b> <b>26.12.2025</b>	Future of terrorism	Laquer, W. & Wall, C., "Terrorism: The Future", in Laqueur, Walter, and Christopher Wall. The future of terrorism: ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and the Alt-Right. Thomas Dunne Books, 2018. pp. 230-245.
	<b>Final exam</b>	

Additional readings and assignments will be provided by the instructor for this course.

*If neccesary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.*