

**THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
WEST CASPIAN UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS**



Department Head: _____

Protocol No.

Date:

DEPARTMENT: Political Science, Psychology and Social Work

FACULTY (SCHOOL): Faculty of Political and Social Sciences

SPECIALIZATION (Code): _____

COURSE NAME: Political Science

GROUP:

MODE OF EDUCATION: Full-time

ACADEMIC YEAR:

SEMESTER: Fall

I. COURSE INFORMATION:

COURSE CODE: _____

TOTAL TEACHING LOAD (HOURS): 30

LECTURES: 15

SEMINARS: 15

PRACTICAL (LAB) SESSIONS:

CLASS DAYS AND TIMES:

CREDIT HOURS: 5

II. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Elkhan Rahimov

Graduate of: Westminster School (Dubai, United Arab Emirates), Al-Hekma International Model School (Manama, Bahrain), United States Department of Defense Dependents School, HULT International Business School (Bachelor's Degree, London, UK), HULT International Business School (Master's Degree, London, UK), UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LAW SCHOOL (London, UK).

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE:

"Political Science" is the study of politics, political processes, institutions, and political power. The main task of political science, which reflects the diversity and variety of a society's political life, is to provide objective, scientifically-based information about political events and processes, and to utilize this knowledge for the benefit of public development. The course consists of theoretical lectures and seminar (practical session) classes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The teaching of this course aims to achieve the following objectives:

- The primary objective of the course is to help students develop a general understanding of modern political knowledge.
- The main teaching methods include lectures, seminars, presentations, class discussions, expert reports, team-based projects, role-playing games, and the analysis and critique of various political works, including articles taken from journals and websites.
- Prior to each class, students are expected to read the assigned texts and any other reading materials provided.

COURSE OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES):

- A successful student will have fully mastered the fundamental political concepts by the end of the course.
- The student will develop the ability to analyze both empirical and normative approaches.
- Familiarity with various political doctrines will help the student form a broad and systematic political worldview.

EXPECTED EXPERIENCE GAINED:

- The understanding of the objectives and tasks of Political Science, scientific research methods, and its relationship with other disciplines will help students grasp the connections between this field and other sciences.
- The student will distinguish the dynamics of the emergence and development of Political Science, define and apply the appropriate framework related to the subject.
- The student will interpret the goals and tasks of political science theories.
- The course will enable students to critically analyze political theories taught in Political Science and develop the ability to make predictions about global events occurring in the international arena.

FORM OF LESSON DELIVERY (TEACHING FORM AND METHODS):

1. Lecture
2. Topic discussion and debate
3. Use of video materials and other visual aids

ASSESSMENT FORM (How exams, assessments, and independent work will be conducted):

1. The number of exam questions is set to 50. During the exam, 4 of the 5 questions given to students will be selected from these 50 questions. One question will be an essay where the student chooses a topic and writes about it.
2. Consultation hours will be held prior to the exam.
3. Exams and intermediate assessments (colloquiums) will be conducted using computer-based testing tools.
4. Issues related to students' eligibility for the exam and intermediate assessments are handled by the faculty dean. The exams and intermediate assessments are conducted based on the "Regulations on the Organization of Teaching in Higher Educational Institutions at the Bachelor's and Master's Level in the Credit System," approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on December 24, 2013 (Decision No. 348).
5. The topics for the course papers and the relevant literature are provided to students in advance. Course papers are defended before a commission established by the department.
6. Throughout the semester, each student must complete 5 independent assignments. The topics of the independent assignments cover the material studied. Each independent assignment is graded on a 10-point scale, and the final grade is the average of all the independent assignments.

IV. GENERAL RULES:

1. **ATTENDANCE:** A student who misses more than 25% of the total hours allocated for the course will not be allowed to take the exam.
2. **COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:**
Maximum score – 100 points
 1. Maximum points earned during the semester – 50 points
 - o **Attendance:** Maximum 10 points
 - o **Independent work:** Maximum 10 points
 - o **Active participation in seminars:** Maximum 30 points
(If a course paper is required for the course, a maximum of 20 points will be awarded for colloquiums, and 10 points for the preparation and defense of the course paper.)
For seminar classes, if a student has at least 3 (three) grades in the journal, points for this type of instruction will be awarded. Otherwise, no points will be assigned.
 2. **Exam Results:** Maximum 50 points
A student's score on the exam must be no less than 17 points.
2. **Course Completion:** Students whose total points accumulated from the semester and the exam results exceed 50 points will be considered to have successfully completed the course.

V. STUDENT EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Grading scale:

- **Below 51 points** – "Unsatisfactory" – F
- **51 - 60 points** – "Satisfactory" – E
- **61 - 70 points** – "Acceptable" – D
- **71 - 80 points** – "Good" – C
- **81 - 90 points** – "Very Good" – B
- **91 - 100 points** – "Excellent" – A

| Weeks | Topic Title | Hours | Date | Remarks |
|-------|---|-------|------|---------|
| I | Knowledge of Politics Stages of Development of Political Science | 2 | | |
| II | Concept of the State | 2 | | |
| III | Political Ideologies, Political Power, | 2 | | |
| IV | Concept of Democracy | 2 | | |
| V | Foreign Policy | 2 | | |
| VI | International Relations | 2 | | |
| VII | Global Governance | 2 | | |
| VIII | Game Theory Political Conflict and Security | 1 | | |

SEMINAR

| weeks | Topic Title | Hours | Date | Remarks |
|-------|--|-------|------|---------|
| I | Knowledge of Politics | 2 | | |
| II | Concept of the State | 2 | | |
| III | Political Ideologies | 2 | | |
| IV | Democracy | 2 | | |
| V | Foreign Policy | 2 | | |
| VI | International Relations | 2 | | |
| VII | Global Governance | 2 | | |
| VIII | Game Theory Political Conflict and Security | 1 | | |

VII. INDEPENDENT STUDY TOPICS:

1. Politics, its essence, and forms
2. The evolution of politics and its place in the modern era
3. The advantages of governance under a democratic system
4. The role of democracy in societal development
5. The political system of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its characteristics
6. The emergence of the state and the factors that condition it

7. Global politics: Who holds the authority, states or MNCs?
8. The foundations of state power in the international relations system and its consequences
9. The role of elections in the political socialization of society
10. A comparative analysis of democratic and non-democratic leaders
11. National interests and national security
12. Political ideology and political technologies
13. Nationalism: concepts, evolution, forms, and development in the modern world
14. Azerbaijan's foreign policy and development vectors
15. The Nagorno-Karabakh aspect in Azerbaijan's foreign policy
16. The foreign policy of Russia and its development directions
17. U.S. foreign policy in the context of globalization/multipolar world
18. Political parties and party systems in foreign countries (e.g., the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States, etc.)
19. The party system of the United Kingdom: history and current state
20. The party system of the United States: history and contemporary aspects
21. Integration into world politics
22. Characteristics of modern international conflicts
23. The formation of political leaders' image
24. Political elites of foreign countries

VIII. EXAM QUESTIONS:

1. The formation and development of the political system of the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. The role of parliament in state governance
3. The political strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
4. The role of public associations in political life
5. The impact of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on political processes
6. The specificity of political processes in Azerbaijan during the independence period
7. The main directions of the transition period
8. The Azerbaijani diaspora: formation and activity
9. The essence of the transition period
10. The role of the leader in political processes
11. Legal provision of political security
12. The role of international organizations in Azerbaijan's socio-political development
13. Democratization of society and its social consequences
14. The electoral system of the transition period
15. Political contradictions of the transition period
16. The role of public opinion in the improvement of society
17. The impact of reforms on political processes
18. Relations between the government and opposition
19. Protection of human rights and freedoms in the independence period
20. Characteristics of the governance system in the independence period

21. Ways to ensure political stability
22. Political socialization in Azerbaijan during the independence period
23. The impact of mass media on political processes
24. Partisanship and its influence
25. The formation and functions of alliances and coalitions
26. Political situation in Azerbaijan on the eve of independence
27. The causes of political crises
28. The democratic basis of the improvement of the electoral system
29. The activities of the ombudsman institution in Azerbaijan
30. Manifestations of political crises in the transition period
31. The concept, essence, and relationship of foreign policy with the state's external functions
32. Content and principles of foreign policy
33. Diplomacy and diplomatic service
34. Diplomatic negotiations
35. Consular service and its activities
36. Propaganda: definition and development
37. Forms of propaganda
38. Characteristics of modern terrorism
39. Methods of peaceful resolution of international conflicts
40. Azerbaijan's foreign policy resources and mechanisms
41. Diplomacy as an important tool of foreign policy
42. Appointment procedures for diplomats
43. Methods used in diplomatic negotiations
44. Appointment procedures for consuls
45. Individual and organized terrorism
46. Resistance to terrorism in the modern world
47. Structure and development process of international conflicts
48. National state interests and foreign policy potential of modern Azerbaijan
49. Key directions of Azerbaijan's foreign policy
50. The theoretical concept of foreign policy
51. The defining role of national interests in the implementation of a state's foreign policy
52. The development of diplomatic institutions
53. Diplomatic sanctions
54. Problems of resistance to terrorism in the modern world
55. State-sponsored terrorism
56. Typology and essence of international conflicts
57. The structure and development process of international conflicts
58. Security regime models: general, collective, and cooperative
59. The main objectives and principles of Azerbaijan's foreign policy

60. The process of transforming Azerbaijan into an active participant in international relations

IX. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND STUDY MATERIALS:

Main textbooks and study materials:

1. Əfəndiyev, M. (1998) *Problems of Political Science*. Baku
2. Hüseynov, R. (2017) *Political Science*. Baku
3. Şirəliyev H., Əhmədov Ə. (1997) *Political Science*. Baku
4. Şirəliyev H. (1998) *Political Science*. Baku
5. Teymurlu, M. (2014) *Political Science*. Baku
6. Azerbaijan State University of Economics (2004) *Political Science (Textbook)*. Baku
7. Vasilyk M. A. (ed.) (2001). *Political Science*. Moscow: Gardariki.
8. Pugachev V.P., Solovyov, A.I. (1998). *Introduction to Political Science*. Moscow: Aspect Press.
9. Heywood, A (2013). *Politics*. 4th ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
10. Ranney, Austin (1996). *Governing: An Introduction to Political Science*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.