

CALVIN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 207: Introduction to International Politics

Fall Semester, 2009

[A] Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Instructor: Joel H. Westra

Email: jwestra@calvin.edu

Telephone: 616/526-6727

Office: 261H DeVos Center

Hours: Monday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the study of international politics. Topics include the role of power, interests, and identity in the international system, the origins of interstate war and the prospects for international cooperation, the functioning of international institutions, the causes and consequences of globalization, the impact of transnational actors, and the challenges facing states in today's world.

The course consists of four parts. *Part I* introduces basic theoretical concepts and applies them to historical cases. *Part II* builds upon these concepts by introducing major theoretical approaches to the study of international politics and applying them to more recent cases. *Parts III* and *IV* more closely examine selected issues of international cooperation and conflict from the post-World War II era to the present day and seek to provide social scientific explanations for them.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course readings and writing assignments are intended to achieve three objectives. Firstly, they are intended to introduce students to the basic concepts and theoretical approaches that comprise the field of international relations. Secondly, they are intended to provide students with a basic understanding of issues in world politics from the past, present, and future. Thirdly, they are intended to assist students in developing analytical skills such that they can provide thoughtful and coherent arguments in oral and written form. The first and second objectives are necessary for continued study in the field of international relations, while the third is essential to the idea of a liberal arts education. All three help to equip students for work as agents of redemption and renewal within the world. *SOLI DEO GLORIA*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all assigned readings before each class period and must be active and engaged participants throughout the semester. The instructor will circulate a seating chart for students to sign, which will be used throughout the semester to record attendance and to facilitate classroom interaction.

There will be four short writing assignments of four to five double-spaced pages in length, which will be due on the dates listed below. Students will be called upon to discuss their paper drafts before turning them in at the beginning of the next class period.

In addition to the writing assignments, there will be a comprehensive final examination.

COURSE GRADES

Course grades will be based on the course objectives listed above, as determined by students' class participation and engagement, writing assignments, and final examination.

Class Participation and Engagement

Class participation and engagement will be weighted as 20% of the final course grade. This is a real course at a real college, and as such you will be expected to read all of the assigned readings before class, with your participation and engagement attesting to how carefully you have read them. You will not necessarily be expected to agree with the readings, your fellow students, or the instructor, but you will be expected to be engaged

participants, so as to learn from the lecture and discussion each day. In doing so, you will become part of an ongoing conversation.

Your participation and engagement grade will be based on your overall contribution to that conversation. More than simply engaging in classroom “chatter”, making a meaningful contribution to the conversation will require that you arrive in class (and/or come to office hours) prepared to give an account of what you understand from the course readings and discussion and/or what you do not understand. Learning requires preparation; there is no excuse for having nothing to say. If necessary, the instructor will call upon students do not participate in class or demonstrate engagement with the course material in other ways.

In addition to regular classroom participation, the instructor will call upon students to discuss drafts of the papers that they will be turning in on the dates noted below. The instructor will ensure that each student is called upon to discuss his/her paper during at least two of the four class periods allocated for this purpose. There will also be several short homework exercises, which will be available online from [KnightVision](#) and due on the dates noted below.

Ideally, students would be so motivated by the intensity of the readings and the perspicacity of the instructor that attendance would not need to be required. But because these are not ideal times, attendance will be included in assessing class participation and engagement. Every student will be allowed three unexcused absences (i.e. one full week), after which a penalty of 5% per day will be deducted from the final course grade. Please see the instructor as soon as possible if you know in advance of an absence due to an extracurricular activity or other excusable reason (at the instructor’s discretion). Most absences will not be excused, so plan accordingly.

Writing Assignments

Each of the four writing assignments will be weighted as 15% of the final course grade, for a total of 60%. The instructor will distribute the writing assignments in advance, as well as a guide to analytical writing. Students should consult the writing guide as a way of avoiding basic mistakes.

Papers will be due on the dates listed below. Students must submit both printed and electronic versions of all papers. Printed and electronic versions must match exactly. The papers must be submitted via KnightVision as MS Word documents [**ver. 97–2003**] in a serif font (such as **Times New Roman**) of size 11 or 12 with 1” margins on all sides. The filename of the electronic version should include the name of the student submitting it.

Grades will be based on analytical rigor and writing skill, and will be determined as follows.

A	Excellent	C	Vague and unsupported
A-	Very good, with few shortcomings; or Clear, but incomplete	C-	Very unclear and confusing; or No argument
B+	Generally clear, but some gaps; or Good, though somewhat unclear	D+	Unclear and misunderstood; or Incorrect/missing citations throughout
B	Gaps in both logic and evidence	D	Very poor
B-	Multiple gaps and unclear parts	D-	Extremely poor
C+	Unclear throughout; or Wrong question	F	Insufficient effort; or Dishonesty

The instructor will not accept late papers in the absence of a medical or other substantial excuse. Students seeking to excuse a late paper must contact the instructor before the deadline and may be required to provide documentation and/or accept a grade reduction. Papers electronically submitted before the deadline will not be counted as late, provided that a printed version is submitted to the instructor’s office within 24 hours. *DIXI*.

Examinations

The final examination will be weighted as 20% of the final course grade and will be comprised primarily of short answer questions. The instructor will not administer makeup exams in the absence of a medical or other substantial excuse. Students seeking to excuse a missed exam should contact the instructor as soon as possible and may be required to provide appropriate documentation and/or accept a grade reduction. No early exams will be given, except as required for extracurricular activities.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The student–faculty relationship is based on trust and mutual respect, which can be seriously undermined by the suspicion or reality of academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about whether some form of assistance or use of materials constitutes academic dishonesty, please see the instructor. In general, the instructor expects that students will adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Students will not take words from any source without putting quotation marks around such words and giving credit to the source. This includes sentences and phrases, as well as significant single words, such as those that express opinion or judgment.
2. Students will not take findings or ideas from any source without giving credit to the source. In paraphrasing, students will not use words so close to those contained in the source that, if a student's work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that the student could not have written what s/he did except by borrowing directly from the source with only superficial changes.
3. Students will organize their thoughts and ideas according to a plan of their own creation and will not simply appropriate the plan of organization contained within another source. To the extent that a student's plan of organization is based upon another source, s/he will give credit to that source.
4. Students will neither ask nor allow someone else to write, revise, or otherwise modify their work in any way, nor reuse papers submitted in other courses or written by other students.

All assignments submitted in this course will be reviewed and evaluated electronically for possible violations of these guidelines. Any violation of these guidelines and/or other rules contained within the *Student Conduct Guide* will result in an *F* for the assignment and/or other appropriate disciplinary action, at the instructor's discretion.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The college will make reasonable accommodation for students with documented disabilities. Students seeking accommodation should notify both the instructor and Student Academic Services.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following are required texts for this course and are available for purchase at the bookstore.

Nye, Joseph S. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*. 6th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007.

Art, Robert J., and Robert Jervis, eds. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*. 8th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007.

Rotberg, Robert I., and Theodore K. Rabb, eds. *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Gilpin, Robert. *The Challenge of Global Capitalism: The World Economy in the 21st Century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000.

Other supplemental journal articles and book sections are available [online](#) as noted in the syllabus. Access to certain websites is available only via a Calvin College internet connection. The instructor will distribute detailed instructions for finding online journal articles.

COURSE READINGS

[Please note the page numbers listed below, as only selected pages of certain articles or book sections are assigned.]

Part I: Introduction and Basic Concepts

September 9 – Course Overview

Nye, Joseph S. “What is International Politics?” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 3–12.

September 11 – The Concept of Anarchy in International Politics (Homework #1 due September 11)

Waltz, Kenneth. “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 31–42 and 47–8.

September 14, 16 – Levels of Analysis in International Politics (Homework #2 due September 16)

Nye, Joseph S. “International Systems and Levels of Causation.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 33–7 and 43–5.

Levy, Jack S. “Domestic Politics and War.” In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 83–93.

Gilpin, Robert. “Theory of Hegemonic War.” In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 15–23.

September 18, 21, 23 – Anarchy and Levels of Analysis in the Peloponnesian War (Homework #3 due September 18)

Nye, Joseph S. “The Peloponnesian War.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*, 12–19.

Thucydides. *The Peloponnesian War*. Translated by Richard Crawley and Abridged by Ian Johnston. Available online from [KnightVision](#). Read excerpts from Books I, II, and V.

[COME TO CLASS ON SEPTEMBER 23 PREPARED TO DISCUSS WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1.]

Part II: Theorizing Anarchy and Its Consequences

September 25 – Realism: Anarchy and the Balance of Power

Waltz, Kenneth, “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory.” In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 39–48.

Mearsheimer, John J. “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power.” In *International Politics*, 50–60.

Gilpin, Robert. “Theory of Hegemonic War.” Read pages 23–30. [see above]

[WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PERIOD.]

September 28, 30 – The Balance of Power and the Outbreak of World War I (Homework #4 due September 28)

Nye, Joseph S. “The Balance of Power and World War I.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 64–84.

Williamson, Samuel R., Jr. “The Origins of World War I.” In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 227–46.

October 2 – Classical Liberalism: Cooperation through Democracy and Interdependence

Doyle, Michael. “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 83–5 and 88–95, as well as the footnote re Imperial Germany that is available online from [KnightVision](#).

October 5 – Democracy, Interdependence, and World War I

Wilson, Woodrow. “The Fourteen Points.” Speech delivered 8 January 1918. Available online from <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wilson14.htm>.

October 7 – Constructivism: Intersubjective Understandings of Anarchy (Homework #5 due October 7)

Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy is What States Make of It." In *International Politics*. Read pages 61–5.

Oren, Ido. "The Subjectivity of the 'Democratic Peace': Changing U.S. Perceptions of Imperial Germany." *International Security* 20, no. 2 (1995). Read pages 147–57. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

October 9 – Contingent Realism: Prospects for Cooperation under Anarchy

Jervis, Robert, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma." In *International Politics*. Read pages 177–80 and 182–90.

Sagan, Scott D. "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability." *International Security* 11, no. 2 (1986). Read pages 151–4 and 158–71. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

October 12 – The Outbreak of World War I Reconsidered

Duffy, Michael. "The Causes of World War I," "How the War Was Planned," and "The July Crisis." Available online from <http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/index.htm>.

[COME TO CLASS ON PREPARED TO DISCUSS WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2.]

October 14, 16 – Neoliberalism: Institutions as Enablers of Cooperation under Anarchy

Oye, Kenneth A. "The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics." In *International Politics*, 69–81.

[WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PERIOD ON OCTOBER 14.]

October 19 – Institutions and the Outbreak of World War II (Homework #6 due October 19)

Covenant of the League of Nations. Available online from <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/leagcov.htm>. Read Articles I–XIX.

Nye, Joseph S. "The Failure of Collective Security and World War II." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 87–96.

Part III: Anarchy and Cooperation in the Post-World War II Era

October 21, 23 – Institutions and the Post-War Settlement

Charter of the United Nations. Available online from <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/un/unchart.htm>. Read Preamble and Chapters I–VIII and XIV.

Gilpin, Robert. "The Cold War International Economy." In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 52–64.

October 26 – NATO and Post-War European Integration

North Atlantic Treaty. Available online from http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/nato.asp.

Gilpin, Robert. "European Regional Integration." In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 193–204 and 226.

October 28 – ACADEMIC ADVISING

October 30 – Hegemonic Stability Theory (Homework #7 due October 30)

Keohane, Robert O. "Hegemony in the World Political Economy." In *International Politics*. Read pages 283–90.

November 2 – Post-War Hegemony and the International Political Economy

Gilpin, Robert. "The Cold War International Economy", "The Insecure Trading System", and "The Unstable Monetary System." In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 65–82, 96–110, and 115–119.

November 4, 6 – Post-War Economic Institutions and Globalization

Gilpin, Robert. “Economic Globalization” and “Age of the Multinationals.” In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 18–29 and 163–72.

Nye, Joseph S. “Globalization and Interdependence.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 204–22.

Frankel, Jeffrey. “Globalization of the Economy.” In *International Politics*, 309–24.

November 9 – Consequences of Globalization for ADCs

Gilpin, Robert. “Globalization and Its Discontents” and “Multinational Corporations and Home Governments.” In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 293–311 and 178–81.

Garrett, Geoffrey. “Globalization’s Missing Middle.” In *International Politics*, 355–60.

Micklethwait, John and Adrian Wooldridge. “Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid.” In *International Politics*, 361–7.

November 11 – Consequences of Globalization for LDCs

Gilpin, Robert. “Globalization and Its Discontents” and “Multinational Corporations and Host Economies.” In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 311–24 and 172–8.

Scott, Bruce. “The Great Divide in the Global Village.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 296–307.

Rodrik, Dani. “Trading in Illusions.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 347–51.

November 13 – Consequences of Globalization (cont’d)

[COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS WRITING ASSIGNMENT #3.]

Part IV: Anarchy and Conflict in the Post-World War II Era

November 16, 18 – The Origins and End of the Cold War (Homework #8 due November 18)

Nye, Joseph S. “The Cold War.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 117–39 and 150–4.

Jervis, Robert. “Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 3, no. 1 (2001). Read pages 39–45 and 58–60. Available online from [Project Muse](#).

[WRITING ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PERIOD ON NOVEMBER 16.]

November 20 – Nuclear Deterrence and the Cold War

Nye, Joseph S. “The Role of Nuclear Weapons.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 139–45 and 148–50.

Jervis, Robert. “The Political Effects of Nuclear Weapons.” *International Security* 13, no. 2 (1988): 80–90. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

November 23 – Nuclear Proliferation (Homework #9 due November 23)

Sagan, Scott D. “Nuclear Instability in South Asia.” In *International Politics*, 239–49.

Waltz, Kenneth. “Nuclear Stability in South Asia.” In *International Politics*, 250–9.

Daalder, Ivo H., and Jan Lodal. “The Logic of Zero: Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons.” *Foreign Affairs* 87 (6). Available online from [Academic OneFile](#).

November 25 – Other WMD Proliferation

Art, Robert J. “The Four Functions of Force.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 141–6.

Betts, Richard K. “The New Threat of Mass Destruction.” *Foreign Affairs* 77, no. 1 (1998): 26–41. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

November 27 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 30 – Transnational Actors and Asymmetric Threats

Nye, Joseph S. “The Information Revolution, Transnational Actors, and the Diffusion of Power.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 241–7, 250–5, and 268–73.

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. “Transnational Activist Networks.” In *International Politics*, 532–7.

Naim, Moisés. “The Five Wars of Globalization.” In *International Politics*, 558–66.

December 2 – Transnational Terrorist Networks (Homework #10 due December 2)

Nye, Joseph S. “Transnational Terrorism.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*, 247–50.

Zakaria, Fareed. “Why Do They Hate Us?” In *International Politics*. Read pages 406–13.

Pape, Robert A. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 223–7 and 235–6.

December 4 – Failed States, Civil Wars, and Ethnic Conflict

Rotberg, Robert I. “Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 456–8.

Nye, Joseph S. “Ethnic Conflicts.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 158–61.

December 7 – Managing Anarchy and Averting Conflict – US Power

Nye, Joseph S. “Intervention and Sovereignty” and “The Vietnam War.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 161–73.

Walt, Stephen M. “Taming American Power.” In *International Politics*, 440–9.

Gilpin, Robert. “Rebuilding the Political Foundations of the Global Economy.” In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 346–57.

December 9 – Managing Anarchy and Averting Conflict – International Institutions

Nye, Joseph S. “International Law and Organization” and “A New World Order?” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 175–85 and 273–7.

Roberts, Adam. “The United Nations and International Security.” In *International Politics*. Read pages 127–32.

Gilpin, Robert. “Managing the Trading System” and “Managing the International Monetary System.” In *The Challenge of Global Capitalism*. Read pages 110–12 and 128–33.

December 11 – Managing Anarchy and Averting Conflict (cont’d)

[COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS WRITING ASSIGNMENT #4, WHICH WILL BE DUE AT 9:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 14.]

December 17 – FINAL EXAMINATION [9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.]

GAUDEAMUS