POLS 304: International Peace and Security
Fall Semester, 2014
[A] Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Joel H. Westra
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Telephone: 616/526-6727
Office: 261H DeVos Center
Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Friday, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

This course satisfies a requirement in the Political Science or International Relations major or minor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the study of international peace and security after the Cold War. Topics include the nature of war and military strategy, causes of war and war termination, moral and legal restraints on the use of military force, arms control and disarmament, peacekeeping and peace enforcement, and international order.

The course consists of four parts. Part I examines the causes and conduct of past wars and their implications for the future. Part II assesses the structure of the post-Cold War international system, considering the impact of both unit- and system-level variables on international stability. Part III analyzes post-Cold War challenges to peace and security. Part IV considers possible sources of international order, examining the role of international institutions and the exercise of military power.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course readings and writing assignments are intended to achieve three objectives. Firstly, they are intended to introduce students to basic concepts of international peace and security. Secondly, they are intended to provide students with a general understanding of various challenges to international peace and security in the post-Cold War world and possibilities for minimizing the dangers posed by these challenges. 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 careers or continued study in international relations, while the third is essential to a liberal arts education. All three help to equip students as agents of change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all assigned readings (approx. 90 pages per week) before each class period and be active and engaged participants throughout the semester. The instructor will circulate a seating chart for students to fill out, which will be used throughout the semester to record attendance and to facilitate classroom interaction.

There will be two writing assignments of eight to twelve double-spaced pages in length, which will be due on the dates listed below (students to choose from two of three topics). In addition to the writing assignments, there will be a midterm examination and 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 examinations.

Participation and Engagement

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 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 what you do not understand. There is no excuse for having nothing to say; learning requires preparation. If necessary, the instructor will call upon students who do not participate in class or demonstrate engagement with the course material in other ways (such as through email, office hours, etc.).

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 two 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; documentation may be required). Other than illness, most absences will not be excused, so plan accordingly.

Students are permitted to use portable electronic devices in class, provided that such devices are used for course purposes and that their use does not undermine the participation and engagement of the user or other students.

Writing Assignments

The two writing assignments each will be weighted as 20% of the final course grade. The instructor will distribute the writing assignments in advance, as well as an analytic writing handout, incorporated herein by reference, which is intended to help students avoid basic mistakes.

Students must follow the stylistic guidelines contained in the APSA Style Manual for Political Science (2006), available online from https://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/Publications/APSAsyleManual2006.pdf. See pages 17–21 for in-text (i.e. parenthetical) citation guidelines and pages 24–33 for reference (i.e. works cited) guidelines. These guidelines are based on the Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition).

Papers will be due on the dates listed below. Students must submit both printed and electronic versions (i.e. via email) of all papers. Printed and electronic versions must match exactly. The instructor will return the printed version and will archive the electronic edition. Papers must be submitted 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 must include the name of the student submitting it. The instructor may assess a 0.25 grade point penalty (each instance) for failure to follow all instructions contained in the syllabus and/or writing guide.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent; Clear, thorough, and well-supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Very good, with few shortcomings; or Clear, but incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Generally clear, but some gaps; or Good, though somewhat unclear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Gaps in logic and evidence; or Disordered; or Undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Multiple gaps and unclear parts; or Containing contradictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Unclear throughout; or Wrong question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Vague and unsupported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Very unclear and confusing; or No argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Unclear and misunderstood; or Incorrect/missing citations throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>Extremely poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Insufficient effort; or Dishonesty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The instructor will not accept late papers in the absence of a medical or other substantive excuse. Students seeking to submit a late paper must contact the instructor before the deadline and may be required to provide documentation and/or accept a grade reduction. Papers submitted electronically before the deadline will not be counted as late, provided that a printed version is submitted to the instructor’s office within 24 hours. The instructor will only grade papers submitted both electronically and in hard copy. DIXI.
If you need help with finding appropriate library resources, please schedule an appointment with Linda McFadden, Reference Librarian (email: lmm8@calvin.edu, phone: x6–8455) or stop by the Research Assistance Desk at the Hekman Library, which is staffed by a research librarian from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. weekdays.

Examinations

The mid-term examination and final examination will be weighted as 15% and 25% of the final course grade, respectively. Both examinations will consist primarily of short answer questions and will be given on the dates noted below. The mid-term examination is intended to provide feedback on how well students understand basic course concepts, while the final examination is intended to assess students’ mastery of course concepts and their application to international politics. Students may opt to take an oral final examination, which will cover a narrower range of topics in greater detail than the written examination.

The instructor will not administer makeup exams in the absence of a medical or other substantive excuse. Students seeking to excuse a missed examination 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. The instructor will distribute handouts throughout the semester, which together with the syllabus will serve as a study guide to help students prepare for the examinations.

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 using a proper citation. 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 using a proper citation. 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 using a proper citation.

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.

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 the Coordinator of Services to Students with Disabilities (Hiemenga Hall 455) within the first two weeks of the semester and make appropriate arrangements.
REQUIRED TEXTS

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


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 supplemental news articles throughout the semester as well as 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: Causes and Conduct of War**

**September 3 – Nature of War**


**September 5 – Strategy in War**


**September 8, 10 – History and Evolution of Warfare**


**September 12 – NO CLASS**

[LSAC LAW SCHOOL FORUM – CHICAGO, IL]
September 15, 17 – Morality and Warfare


September 19 – Causes of War: Methodological Challenges


September 22 – Causes of War: Rationalist Explanations


September 24 – Causes of War: Offense-Defense Theory


September 26, 29 – Conventional Warfare: Ground Forces


[Topics for Writing Assignment #1 (Optional) are Due on September 26.]

October 1, 3 – Conventional Warfare: Naval Forces


October 6 – Conventional Warfare: Air Forces


October 8 – MID-TERM EXAMINATION
Part II: The Post-Cold War International System

**October 10 – Unipolarity as System Structure**


**October 13 – Unipolarity and State Behavior**


[Writing Assignment #1 (Optional) Due at the Beginning of the Class Period.]

**October 15 – Unipolarity and System Stability**


**October 17 – Nuclear Deterrence and System Stability**


**October 20 – Nuclear Deterrence and System Stability (cont’d)**


[Topics for Writing Assignment #2 (Optional) Are Due by the Beginning of the Class Period.]

**October 22 – Nuclear Deterrence and System Stability (cont’d)**


**October 24 – Nuclear Proliferation and System Stability**


October 27 – Actors and System Stability
Waltz, Kenneth N. 2000. “Structural Realism after the Cold War.” Read pages 6–18. [see above]

October 29 – ACADEMIC ADVISING
[WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 (OPTIONAL) DUE AT NOON.]

Part III: Post-Cold War Security Challenges

October 31 – Ballistic Missiles and WMD Proliferation

November 3 – WMD Terrorism

November 5, 7 – Civil Wars and Ethnic Conflict

November 10 – Asymmetric Conflict
November 12 – Nontraditional Security Threats

Part IV: Post-Cold War International Order

November 14, 17 – Sovereignty and International Law


Topics for Writing Assignment #3 (optional) due by the beginning of the class period.]

November 19 – Warfare and International Law


November 21, 24 – War Termination and Peace Agreements


Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars.” Reread pages 138–139 and 147–149 and then read pages 159–164. [see above]

November 26, 28 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 1 – Intervention in Civil Wars and Failed States
Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars.” Read pages 164–175. [see above]

December 3, 5 – Insurgency and Counterinsurgency


December 8 – Technology and the Changing Nature of Warfare


[Writing Assignment #3 (optional) Due at Noon on December 9.]

December 15 – FINAL EXAMINATION [9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.]

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