POLS 390: International Relations Theory   
Fall Semester, 2012   
[Independent Study]   
Instructor: Dr. Joel H. Westra   
Email: jwestra@calvin.edu   
Telephone: 616/526-6727   
Office: 261H DeVos Center

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the historical development of international relations (IR) theory. Topics include classical and contemporary foundations of IR theory, paradigms of IR theory, and applications of IR theory.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The course readings and writing assignments are intended to achieve three objectives. Firstly, they are intended to introduce students to foundational theories and contemporary debates in international relations. Secondly, they are intended to provide students with a basic understanding of historical development and recent application of IR theory. 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 the fields of international relations and international law, 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 be active participants in each class session. In addition to class participation, there will be three short writing assignments and a term paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS
The following are required texts for this course.


Other supplemental journal articles are available online as noted in the syllabus. Access to certain websites is available only via a Calvin College internet connection.
COURSE READINGS

[Please note the chapter and page numbers listed below, as only selected parts of certain articles or books are assigned.]

Part I: Foundations of International Relations Theory

A. Classical Foundations: Thucydides and Machiavelli
Thucydides. c. 400 BC. The Peloponnesian War. Read Book I; Book II.1-70; Book III.1-86; Book V.84–116; and Book VI.1-32 and 62–104.
Machiavelli, Niccolò. 1531. Discourses. Read Book I.1–6; Book II.1-15 and 24–33; and Book III.40–42.

B. Classical Foundations: Hobbes

C. Classical Foundations: Rousseau

D. Classical Foundations: Kant
Kant, Immanuel. 1784. “Idea for Universal History with Cosmopolitan Intent.”
Kant, Immanuel. 1796. “Perpetual Peace.”

E. Classical Foundations: Assessment
Waltz, Kenneth. 1959. Man, the State, and War.

E. Contemporary Foundations
Part II: Paradigms of International Relations Theory

A. Defensive Neorealism

B. Neoliberal Institutionalism

C. Neoclassical Realism

D. Offensive Neorealism

E. Social Constructivism
Wendt, Alexander. 1999. Social Theory of International Politics. Read chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7.

Part III: Applications of International Relations Theory

A. Military Coercion

B. International Order

C. Unipolarity