COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the development, rationale, and functioning of the laws of war. Topics include the interrelationship among politics, morality, and law, the structure and function of codified international law, the application of the laws of war to specific practices of warfare, and the role of tribunals in determining violations of the laws of war and assigning responsibility for such violations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The course readings and writing assignments are intended to achieve three objectives. Firstly, they are intended to introduce students to basic concepts and theories of international law as they pertain to the use of armed force. Secondly, they are intended to provide students with a basic understanding of the laws of war and the means by which they function as a restraint on military action. 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 four 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.
PART I: POLITICS, MORALITY, AND LAW (Weeks 1 – 3)

A. The Moral Reality of War
Thucydides. c. 400 BC. The Peloponnesian War. Available online from oll.libertyfund.org.
   Book III.1–86
   Book V.84–115
   Book I.1–8
   Book II.2
   Book VIII.3–8

B. Power vs. Principle
   Book I.Pr, 1, 3, 7–9, 21–26, 30–33
   Book II.17, 21
   Book III.10, 14, 20, 26–29
   Book IV.3–7, 15
   Book V.12, 17, 19
   Book XV.4–5
   Book XIX.4–8, 11–17, 21, 24, 27.

C. Order vs. Justice

PART II: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (Weeks 4 – 5)

A. Form and Function of International Law
B. Compliance with International Law

PART III: HAGUE LAW AND THE CONDUCT OF WAR (Weeks 6 – 8)

A. Prohibited Weapons and Tactics
Declaration of St. Petersburg (1868). Available online from avalon.law.yale.edu.
Declaration III (1899). Available online from avalon.law.yale.edu.
Hague Convention IV (1907). Sections II and III. Available online from avalon.law.yale.edu.

B. Naval and Aerial Bombardment
Declaration I (1899). Available online from avalon.law.yale.edu.

C. Sieges and Blockades

D. Biological and Chemical Weapons
Hague Declaration II (1899). Available online from avalon.law.yale.edu.
E. Nuclear Weapons


F. Landmines and Cluster Munitions


PART IV: GENEVA LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF NONCOMBATANTS (Weeks 9 – 11)

A. Treatment of the Wounded, Sick, and Shipwrecked


B. Protection of Civilians


C. Enemy Combatants and Prisoners of War

Hague Convention IV (1907). Section I. Available online from avalon.law.yale.edu.

D. Irregular Forces and Enemy Detainees


PART V: LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE ROLE OF TRIBUNALS (Weeks 12 – 13)

A. The International Criminal Court


B. The Uniform Code of Military Justice