

2012

Calvin College Introduction to International Politics

Evangelical Advocacy: A Response to Global Poverty

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Evangelical Advocacy: A Response to Global Poverty, "Calvin College Introduction to International Politics" (2012). *Syllabi*. Book 2. <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/engaginggovernmentsyllabi/2>

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CALVIN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 207: Introduction to International Politics

Spring Semester, 2012

[A] Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Joel H. Westra

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Telephone: 616/526-6727

Office: 261H DeVos Center

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday,

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the study of international politics. Topics include the role of power, interests, and ideas within the international system, the origins of interstate war and the prospects for international cooperation, the functioning of global economic and security institutions, the causes and consequences of globalization, the impact of transnational actors, and the role of the United States and other global actors in the post-Cold War international system.

The course consists of four parts. *Part I* introduces basic theoretical concepts and applies them to historical and recent cases. *Part II* builds upon these concepts by introducing major theoretical approaches to the study of international politics and applying them to historical and 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 and to help them use these concepts and approaches to analyze broad patterns of global interaction. Secondly, they are intended to provide students with a basic understanding of global economic and security issues 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 (approx. 75 pages per week) and homework assignments before each class period and must 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 four short writing assignments of four to six double-spaced pages in length, which will be due on the dates listed below. Students will be called upon in class to discuss their paper drafts before turning them in. In addition to the writing assignments, there will be several short homework assignments and a comprehensive final examination.

COURSE GRADES

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

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 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. 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 homework, email, etc.).

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 assignments based on the course readings, which will be available online from Moodle and due at the beginning of class on the dates noted below. Class lecture and discussion will provide feedback on these assignments. If you would like more explicit feedback, please see the instructor.

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 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; documentation may be required). Other than illness, 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. 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. Student must use Chicago–A (footnotes), Chicago–B (author-date), or APA style citations (not MLA). Please refer to <http://www.calstatela.edu/library/styleman.htm> for help with these citation styles.

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. Electronic versions of papers must be submitted via email as MS Word documents [.doc] 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, empirical evidence, and writing skill, and will be determined as follows.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| A | Excellent; Clear, thorough, and well-supported | 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 logic and evidence; or Disordered; or Undeveloped | D | Very poor |
| B- | Multiple gaps and unclear parts; or Containing contradictions | 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 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 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. The instructor will only grade papers submitted both electronically and in hard copy. *DIXI*.

Examinations

The final examination will be weighted as 20% of the final course grade and will be comprised of short answer questions. The instructor will not administer makeup exams in the absence of a medical or other substantial excuse; students 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 help students to prepare for the examination.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course satisfies the core requirement for Global and Historical Studies. Students completing this course will be able to demonstrate understanding of contemporary global issues and their historical roots as well as knowledge of eras and events removed from the contemporary North American context and thus be capable of critically evaluating that context and of appreciating alternative policies and perspectives.

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, concepts, 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.

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 at the beginning 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.

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*. 7th ed. New York: Pearson Longman.

Mingst, Karen A., and Jack L. Snyder, eds. 2008. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. 3rd ed. New York, W. W. Norton.

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

Brawley, Mark R. 2005. *Power, Money, and Trade: Decisions that Shape Global Economic Relations*. University of Toronto Press.

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: Introduction and Basic Concepts

January 30 – Course Overview: International Relations as Social Science

Brawley, Mark R. 2005. "Introduction." In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 13–20.

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "What is International Politics?" and "Counterfactuals". In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 2–12 and 52–55.

February 1 – The Concept of Anarchy in International Relations (Homework #1 due)

Brawley, Mark R. 2005. "Another Great Debate" and "The Security Dilemma." In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 31–34 and 70.

Milner, Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations." *Review of International Studies* 17(1). Read pages 68–74. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

Bull, Hedley. 1977. "Does Order Exist in World Politics?" In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 127–131.

February 3 – Levels of Analysis in International Relations: The First Image

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "International Systems and Levels of Causation." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 34–45.

Brawley, Mark R. 2005. "Bureaucratic Politics" and "Idiosyncratic Characteristics of Individuals." In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 97–100, 101–5, and 109–116.

February 6 – Levels of Analysis in International Relations: The Second and Third Images (Homework #2 due)

Levy, Jack S. 1988. "Domestic Politics and War." In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 83–93.

Gilpin, Robert. 1988. "Theory of Hegemonic War." In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 15–23.

Brawley, Mark R. 2005. "System Level Arguments" and "Theories from the National or Domestic Level." In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 59–66, 70–2, 75–8, 81–90, and 94.

February 8, 10, 13 – Anarchy and Levels of Analysis in the Peloponnesian War (Homework #3 due February 8)

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "The Peloponnesian War." In *Understanding International Conflicts*, 13–20.
- Gilpin, Robert. 1988. "Theory of Hegemonic War." In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 21–23.
- Thucydides. c. 400 B.C. *The Peloponnesian War*. Translated by Richard Crawley. Read excerpts from Books I, II, and V, available online from [Moodle](#).

[COME TO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 13 PREPARED TO DISCUSS WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1.]

Part II: Theorizing Anarchy and Its Consequences

February 15 – Realism and Neorealism: Anarchy and the Balance of Power

- Waltz, Kenneth. 1988. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 39–48.
- Mearsheimer, John J. 2001. "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 60–74.
- Gilpin, Robert. 1988. "Theory of Hegemonic War." In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 23–30.

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

February 17, 20 – The Balance of Power and the Outbreak of World War I (Homework #4 due February 17)

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "The Balance of Power and World War I." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 65–84.
- Williamson, Samuel R., Jr. 1988. "The Origins of World War I." In *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Read pages 227–246.

February 22 – Classical Liberalism: Cooperation through Democracy and Interdependence

- Kant, Immanuel. 1795. "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read the selections included on pages 14–17 as well as the Third Definitive Article available online from [Moodle](#).
- Doyle, Michael. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 80–90.

February 24 – Democracy, Interdependence, and World War I

- Doyle, Michael. 1983. "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs." Read the footnote re Imperial Germany available online from [Moodle](#).
- Wilson, Woodrow. 1918. "The Fourteen Points." Reprinted in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 26–28.

February 27 – Constructivism: Intersubjective Understandings of Anarchy (Homework #5 due)

- Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 93–102.
- Oren, Ido. 1995. "The Subjectivity of the 'Democratic Peace': Changing U.S. Perceptions of Imperial Germany." *International Security* 20(2). Read pages 147–157. Available online from [JSTOR](#).
- Brawley, Mark R. 2005. "Ideas are important, but how should we study them?" In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 130–131.

February 29 – Contingent Realism: Prospects for Cooperation under Anarchy

Jervis, Robert. 1978. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 346–349 and 351–358.

Sagan, Scott D. 1986. "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability." *International Security* 11(2). Read pages 151–154 and 158–171. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

March 2 – The Outbreak of World War I Reconsidered

Duffy, Michael et al. 2009. "The Causes of World War I," "How the War Was Planned," "The July Crisis," and "The Willy-Nicky Telegrams." Available online from <http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/index.htm>.

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

March 5 – Neoliberalism: Institutions as Enablers of Cooperation under Anarchy

Oye, Kenneth A. 1995. "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy." *World Politics* 38(1). Read pages 1, 6–9, and 18–20. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

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

March 7 – Limits of International Institutions

Mearsheimer, John. 1994/95. "The False Promise of International Institutions." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 319–323.

***March 9 – The Failure of Institutions and the Outbreak of World War II* (Homework #6 due)**

Covenant of the League of Nations. 1919. Read Articles I–XIX. Available online from <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/leagcov.htm>.

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "The Failure of Collective Security and World War II." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 88–97.

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

***March 12 – The United Nations and the Post-War International Order* (Homework #7 due)**

Charter of the United Nations. 1945. Read Preamble and Chapters I–VIII and XIV. Available online from <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/un/unchart.htm>.

March 14 – NATO and the Post-War European Security Order

North Atlantic Treaty. 1949. Available online from http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/nato.asp.

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "Liberalism Revived." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 46–50.

***March 16 – Hegemonic Stability Theory and Its Limits* (Homework #8 due)**

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "Leadership and Institutions in the World Economy." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 216–220.

Brawley, Mark R. 2005. "Hegemony," "Free Trade or Protection?," "The Key Currency Role," and "Hegemonic Stability Theory and Monetary Regimes." In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 68–9, 157–159, 170, and 172.

March 19, 21, 23 – SPRING BREAK

March 26, 28 – Hegemony and the Post-War Economic Institutions

Brawley, Mark R. 2005. “The Politics of Trade,” “The Politics of International Monetary Relations,” “The Creation of the Bretton Woods Monetary Regime,” and “The Collapse of the Bretton Woods Monetary Regime.” In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 147–148, 156–157, 165–170, 289–300, and 319–327.

March 30 – Economic Institutions and Globalization

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. “Globalization and Interdependence.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 202–215.
Brawley, Mark R. 2005. “The Politics of International Investment.” In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 177–183.

April 2 – Political Consequences of Globalization for Developing Countries [Guest Lecture] (Homework #9 due)

Friedman, Thomas L. 2006. “The First Law of Pétropolitics.” In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 543–550.
Inglehart, Ronald, and Christian Welzel. 2009. “What We Know about Modernization.” *Foreign Affairs* 88(2). Available online from [Academic OneFile](#).
Ignatieff, Michael. 2001. “The Attack on Human Rights.” In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 601–609.

April 4 – Economic Consequences of Globalization for Developing Countries

Milner, Helen V. 2005. “Globalization, Development, and International Institutions.” In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 486–500.
Wolf, Martin. 2004. “Why Globalization Works.” In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 509–516 and 527–530.
Brawley, Mark R. 2005. “The Politics of International Investment.” In *Power, Money, and Trade*. Read pages 187–190 and 193–194.

April 6 – GOOD FRIDAY

April 9 – Consequences of Globalization for Developing Countries (cont’d)

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

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

April 11 – The Origins of the Cold War

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. “The Cold War.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 116–133 and 156–157.
[WRITING ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PERIOD.]

April 13 – NO CLASS

April 16 – The End of the Cold War (Homework #10 due)

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. “The Cold War.” In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 138–145 and 158–160.
Jervis, Robert. 2001. “Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 3(1). Read pages 39–45 and 58–60. Available online from [Project Muse](#).
Wendt, Alexander. 1992. “Anarchy is What States Make of It.” In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 106–109.

April 18 – Nuclear Deterrence and the Cold War

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "The Role of Nuclear Weapons." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 145–148.
- Mueller, John. 1988. "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World." *International Security* 13(2). Read pages 55–68. Available online from [JSTOR](#).
- Jervis, Robert. 1988. "The Political Effects of Nuclear Weapons." *International Security* 13(2): 80–90. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

April 20 – Nuclear Proliferation

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "The Role of Nuclear Weapons." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 148–155.
- Daalder, Ivo H., and Jan Lodol. 2008. "The Logic of Zero: Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons." *Foreign Affairs* 87(6). Available online from [Academic OneFile](#).
- Sagan, Scott D. 2006. "How To Keep the Bomb from Iran." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 360–368.

April 23 – Transnational Actors and Asymmetric Threats

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "Information Revolution and Transnational Actors" and "A New World Order". In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 231–252 and 263–267.
- Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 279–284.

April 25 – ACADEMIC ADVISING

April 27 – Transnational Terrorist Networks ([Homework #11](#) due)

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "Transnational Challenges to Security." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 267–270.
- Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 398–410 and 413–415.
- Abrahms, Max. 2006. "Why Terrorism Does Not Work." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages 418–427.

April 30 – Failed States, Civil Wars and Ethnic Conflict ([Homework #12](#) due)

- Rotberg, Robert I. 2002. "Failed States in a World of Terror." *Foreign Affairs* 81(4): 127–140. Available online from [JSTOR](#).
- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "Ethnic Conflicts" and "Questions of Nationalism". In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 164–166 and 183–185.
- Posen, Barry R. 1993. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 388–397.
- Ross, Michael L. 2003. "The Varying Roles of Natural Resources in Civil War." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 441–456.

May 2 – Other Transnational Security Challenges

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "Transnational Challenges to Security." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 270–276.
- Naím, Moisés. 2003. "The Five Wars of Globalization." In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 535–542.
- Garrett, Laurie. 2005. "The Next Pandemic?" In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 586–597.

May 4 – Managing Anarchy and Averting Conflict – US Hegemony

- Nye, Joseph S. 2009. "Intervention and Sovereignty." In *Understanding International Conflicts*. Read pages 166–173.
- Snyder, Jack. 2004. "Is Realism Still Realistic?" In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 5–7.
- Walt, Stephen M. 1005. "Taming American Power." *Foreign Affairs* 84(5). Read pages 106–117. Available online from [JSTOR](#).

May 7 – Managing Anarchy and Averting Conflict – International Institutions

Nye, Joseph S. 2009. “International Law and Organization” and “A New World Order?” In *Understanding International Conflicts*.
Read pages 173–182 and 276–285.

Snyder, Jack. 2004. “The Divided House of Liberalism.” In *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 7–9.

Mearsheimer, John. 1994/95. “Can Liberal Institutionalism Be Repaired?” In *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Read pages
323–325.

May 9 – Managing Anarchy and Averting Conflict – Transnational Actors

Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. “Human Rights Advocacy Networks in Latin America.” In *Essential Readings in
World Politics*. Read pages 284–288.

[COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS WRITING ASSIGNMENT #4, DUE AT 9:00 A.M. ON MAY 11.]

May 16 – FINAL EXAMINATION [9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.]

GAUDEAMUS