

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

**Political Science 12  
International Relations**

**Philip G. Roeder  
Fall Quarter 2008**

Political Science 12 is an introduction to the problems of conflict and cooperation among sovereign states and the search for peace in a changing world. This is an introductory course: It assumes no previous study of international (or domestic) politics. The primary goal of the course is to acquaint you with major modes of analysis in the scholarly study of international relations.

THE PROBLEM: WILL THE NEW WORLD ORDER BE MORE PEACEFUL THAN THE OLD?

- I. WHY WAS THERE CONFLICT IN THE PAST?
  - A. Why Did Europe Slip into the First World War?
  - B. Why a Second World War?
  - C. Who or What Was to Blame for the Cold War?
  - D. Was 9/11 the End of a Long Peace?
  
- II. THE ACTORS: WHY DO SOME FIGHT AND OTHERS COOPERATE?
  - A. Theories of Leaders and Foreign Policies: What Makes Some States Aggressive?
  - B. Strategy: How Can a State Use Power Successfully?
  
- III. INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS: WHY ARE SOME PEACEFUL?
  - A. The International System of States: A “Quick and Dirty” Overview.
  - B. The Security Dilemma: Does Conflict Inhere in Anarchy?
  - C. Unipolarity: Can a Hegemon Guarantee the Peace?
  - D. The Balance of Power: Can the “Invisible Hand” Protect Us?
  - E. The Balance of Terror: Can MADness Save Us?
  - F. International Institutions: Can We Build Peace?
  
- IV. WHERE DOES WORLD POLITICS GO FROM HERE?
  - A. Is the World Developing a Culture of Cooperation?
  - B. Are New Actors Transforming Global Politics?
  - C. Why Would Rational Economic Actors Ever Go to War?
  - D. Are International Relations Really Changing?

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., and by appointment.

**Teaching Assistants:**

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**Reading Assignments.** All readings are contained in a reader that you can purchase at Soft Reserves in the old Student Center. There are no required books at the Bookstore.

Most, but certainly not all, readings are also on electronic reserve through the Library. Some readings had to be omitted from electronic reserves because the copyright-permission costs to the library are too high.

On average you will only need to read two articles per week, but most of these articles are written at a level that demands close attention and thought. These are not textbook chapters. Instead, each author takes a stand on a contested issue; each author uses one or the other of the intellectual perspectives—that is, political realism, political sociology, or political economy—that we will consider during the quarter.

**Grades.** Your course grade will be the weighted average of your performance in discussion sections and on two examinations. In the computation of your course grade, your performance on these requirements will be weighted as follows:

Discussion sections	20%
Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	40%
Additional weight to the better exam	10%

**Examinations.** Each examination will include two parts—short identification questions (completed in class) and an essay (completed “at home”). The dates of the examinations are as follows:

Midterm Examination.	Monday, October 27.	(Regular class time)
Final Examination.	Tuesday, December 9.	(11:30 am)

You must turn in each take-home essay no later than the time of the corresponding in-class examination.

**Discussion Sections.** Participation in the weekly meetings of your discussion section is required. In discussion sections the teaching assistants will clarify what the professor really meant to say in lecture. The sections provide you with the opportunity to discuss the assigned readings and to complete the writing requirements for this course. Since your TA will grade your examinations, it is important that you work closely with her or him.

**Web site.** A copy of the syllabus, each lecture outline, and each assignment will be posted to a web-site for this course. If you lose your hardcopy of the syllabus or any assignment, check the web-site. The address is:  
dss.ucsd.edu/~proeder

*Please note:* If a fire, earthquake, snow, or other emergency forces closure of UCSD, I will try to post on line information about any changes to the syllabus. If I cannot access the UCSD computer, this may be delayed.

## SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

### I. WHY WAS THERE CONFLICT IN THE PAST?

- Mo Sep 29. Introductory Meeting.  
We Oct 1. Why Did Europe Slip into the First World War?

Assignment for Week 1 Discussion Sections:

Kenneth N. Waltz. *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959. Chapter 1.  
John G. Stoessinger. *Why Nations Go to War*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990. Chapters 1, 8.

- Mo Oct 6. Why a Second World War?  
We Oct 8. Who or What Was to Blame for the Cold War?

Assignment for Week 2 Discussion Sections:

Stephen van Evera. "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War." *International Security* 9 (Summer 1984), 58-107.  
John Lewis Gaddis. "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System." *International Security* 10 (Spring 1986), 99-142.

- Mo Oct 13. Was 9/11 the End of a Long Peace?

### II. THE ACTORS: WHY DO SOME FIGHT AND OTHERS COOPERATE?

- We Oct 15. Theories of Leaders and Foreign Policies: What Makes Some States Aggressive?

Assignment for Week 3 Discussion Sections:

Hans J. Morgenthau [and Kenneth W. Thompson]. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, [6<sup>th</sup> ed]. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949 [1985]. Chapter 1.  
Jack Snyder. "Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984." *International Security* 9 (Summer 1984), 108-146.  
Michael C. Desch. "America's Liberal Illiberalism: The Ideological Origins of Overreaction in U.S. Foreign Policy." *International Security* 32 (Winter 2007/8), 7-43.

- Mo Oct 20. Theories of Leaders and Foreign Policies [continued].  
We Oct 22. Strategy: How Can a State Use Power Successfully?

Assignment for Week 4 Discussion Sections:

Michael W. Doyle. "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12 (Summer and Fall 1983), 205-235, 323-353.  
David A. Lake. "Powerful Pacifists: Democratic States and War." *American Political Science Review* 86 (March 1992), 24-37.

### III. INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS: WHY ARE SOME PEACEFUL?

- Mo Oct 27. MIDTERM EXAMINATION.  
We Oct 29. The International System of States: A "Quick and Dirty" Overview.

Assignment for Week 5 Discussion Sections:

Jack Levy. "Long Cycles, Hegemonic Transitions, and the Long Peace." In *The Long Postwar Peace*, edited by Charles W. Kegley, 147-176. New York: Harper Collins, 1991.

- Mo Nov 3. The Security Dilemma: Does Conflict Inhere in Anarchy?  
We Nov 5. Unipolarity: Can a Hegemon Again Guarantee the Peace?

Assignment for Week 6 Discussion Sections:

Christopher Layne. "The Unipolar Illusion Revisited: The Coming End of the United States' Unipolar Moment." *International Security* 31 (Fall 2006), 7-41.

Keir A. Lieber and Gerard Alexander. "Waiting for Balancing: Why the World Is Not Pushing Back." *International Security* 30 (Summer 2005), 109-139.

- Mo Nov 10. The Balance of Power: Can the "Invisible Hand" Once More Protect Us?  
We Nov 12. The Balance of Terror: Can MADness Save Us?

Assignment for Week 7 Discussion Sections:

Kenneth N. Waltz. "Structural Realism after the Cold War." *International Security* 25 (Summer 2000), 5-41.

John Mearsheimer. "The Case for a Ukrainian Nuclear Deterrent." *Foreign Affairs* 72 (Summer 1993), 50-66.

John Mearsheimer. "Here We Go Again," *New York Times* (17 May 1998), Section 4.

- Mo Nov 17. International Institutions: Can We Build Peace?

#### **IV. WHERE DOES WORLD POLITICS GO FROM HERE?**

- We Nov 19. Is the World Developing a Culture of Cooperation or Conflict?  
Mo Nov 24. Are New Actors Transforming Global Politics?

Assignment for Weeks 8 and 9 Discussion Sections:

John S. Duffield. "Explaining the Long Peace in Europe: The Contributions of Regional Security Regimes." *Review of International Studies* 20 (October 1994), 369-388.

Carl Kaysen. "Is War Obsolete? A Review Essay." *International Security* 14 (Spring 1990), 42-64.

Samuel P. Huntington. "The Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Affairs* 72 (Summer 1993), 22-49.

Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye. *Power and Interdependence*, 2d ed. Glenview: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1989. Chapters 1-2.

Geoffrey Blainey. *The Causes of War*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press, 1988. Chapter 3.

- Mo Dec 1. Why Would Rational Economic Actors Ever Go to War?  
We Dec 3. Are International Relations Really Changing?

Assignment for Week 10 Discussion Sections:

Michael Mousseau. "Market Civilization and Its Clash with Terror." *International Security* 27 (Winter 2002-3), 5-29.

Audrey Kurth Cronin. "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism." *International Security* 27 (Winter 2002/3), 30-58.

**Tuesday, December 9. FINAL EXAMINATION. (11:30 am - 1:30 pm).**