Political Science 12
International Relations

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?
Instructor: Philip G. Roeder
Office: Social Sciences Building 382
Phone: (858) 534-6000
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., and by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:
Molly Bauer Social Sciences Building 348 mebauer@ucsd.edu
Cameron Brown Social Sciences Building 322 cameron-brown@ucsd.edu
Sam Seljan Social Sciences Building 345 sseljan@ucsd.edu
Ben Tang Social Sciences Building 324 btang@ucsd.edu

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 online 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:

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:

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:

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:

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:
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:

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:

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:

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:

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