

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Political Science 12 International Relations

Philip G. Roeder
Fall Quarter 2009

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.

WILL THE WORLD BECOME MORE PEACEFUL THAN IN THE PAST?

- 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. ACTORS: WHY DO SOME FIGHT AND OTHERS COOPERATE?
 - A. Theories of 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: An 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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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 readings are also on electronic reserve through the Library.

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. Pay close attention to the ways in which their intellectual assumptions shape their analyses. In particular, note the different ways in which authors frame their research questions, use theory to derive expectations (hypotheses) about the empirical patterns we should observe, and present evidence that they claim confirms their hypotheses.

Grades. Your course grade will be the weighted average of your performance in discussion sections and on two examinations. In 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 26.	(Regular class time)
Final Examination.	Friday, December 11.	(9:00 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. Copies of the syllabus, the lecture outlines, 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.

Please also note: Despite the official proclamation of furloughs throughout the University of California, we will meet for all lectures unless there is an emergency or change in University policy beyond the instructor’s control.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

I. WHY WAS THERE CONFLICT IN THE PAST?

Mo Sep 28. Introductory Meeting.

We Sep 30. Why Did Europe Slip into the First World War?

Assignment for Week 1 Discussion Sections:

John G. Stoessinger. *Why Nations Go to War*, any edition. New York: Various publishers, 1974-present. Chapter 1.

Stephen van Evera. "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War." *International Security* 9 (Summer 1984), 58-107.

Mo Oct 5. Why a Second World War?

We Oct 7. Who or What Was to Blame for the Cold War?

Assignment for Week 2 Discussion Sections:

John Lewis Gaddis. "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Post-war International System." *International Security* 10 (Spring 1986), 99-142.

Mo Oct 12. Was 9/11 the End of a Long Peace?

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

We Oct 14. Foreign Policies: What Makes Some States Aggressive?

Assignment for Week 3 Discussion Sections:

Jack Snyder. "Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984." *International Security* 9 (Summer 1984), 108-146.

Michael W. Doyle. "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12 (Summer and Fall 1983), 205-235, 323-353.

Mo Oct 19. Theories of Foreign Policies [continued].

We Oct 21. Strategy: How Can a State Use Power Successfully?

Assignment for Week 4 Discussion Sections:

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 26. MIDTERM EXAMINATION.

We Oct 28. The International System of States: An Overview.

Assignment for Week 5 Discussion Sections:

Jack Levy. "Theories of General War." *World Politics* 37 (April 1985), 344-74.

Mo Nov 2. The Security Dilemma: Does Conflict Inhere in Anarchy?

We Nov 4. 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 9. Balance of Power: Can the "Invisible Hand" Protect Us?

We Nov 11. Veterans' Day [no lecture].

Assignment for Week 7 Discussion Sections:

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

Steven E. Miller. "The Case Against a Ukrainian Nuclear Deterrent." *Foreign Affairs* 72 (Summer 1993), 67-80.

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

Mo Nov 16. The Balance of Terror: Can MADness Save Us?

We Nov 18. International Institutions: Can We Build Peace?

Assignment for Week 8 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.

IV. WHERE DOES WORLD POLITICS GO FROM HERE?

Mo Nov 23. Is the World Developing a Culture of Cooperation or Conflict?

We Nov 25. Are New Actors Transforming Global Politics?

Mo Nov 30. Why Would Rational Economic Actors Ever Go to War?

We Dec 2. 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.

Friday, December 11. FINAL EXAMINATION. (9:00 am).