

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Political Science 12
International Relations

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Spring Quarter, 2006

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.

PRIMARY QUESTION: WHAT EXPLAINS INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND COOPERATION IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE?

I. CASES: WHY WAS THE 20TH CENTURY SO BLOODY?

- A. Why Did Europe Slip into the First World War?
- B. Why a Second World War?
- C. How Do We Make Sense of the Cold War?
- D. Does 9/11 Suggest a Change in World Politics?

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

- A. Why Do States Sometimes Choose to Use Force?
- B. Rational Inefficiency: Do Rational Actors Really Choose War?
- C. Do Domestic Institutions Matter?

III. INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS: WHY ARE SOME PEACEFUL?

- A. How Does the International System of States Change?
- 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. Can Global Governance Alleviate Anarchy?
- G. Can International Institutions Create Cooperation?

IV. WHERE DOES WORLD POLITICS GO FROM HERE?

- A. Is the World Developing a Culture of Conflict or Cooperation?
- B. Globalization: Are Transnational Actors Transforming Global Politics?
- C. Are International Relations Really Changing?

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Reading Assignments. All readings are contained in a reader for 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. You will need to read two to three articles per week, and most of these articles are written at a level that demands close attention and thought. The readings involve arguments from leading scholars in the field and are meant to provide a challenging compliment to the lecture material. Section leaders will lead discussion under the assumption that you have done the reading.

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

Discussion sections	10%
Application papers	10%
Midterm examination: May 1	30%
Final examination: June 12	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”). You must turn in each take-home essay no later than the time of the corresponding in-class examination. The essay prompts will be distributed two weeks prior to each exam.

The exams will assess your understanding of the lecture and reading material. You are expected to attend each lecture – any lecture notes placed on the course website are meant to only *remind* you of the lecture structures and not to fill in the details of the presented information. In other words, taking careful notes in class is highly recommended if you want to do well on the exams.

Application Papers. You are required to complete two application papers. The first is due in section before the Midterm, and the second is due in section before the Final. The application papers are essentially 3-paragraph short essays that apply the materials covered in the course to current events. They should be no longer than one page double spaced. You will be graded on how well you demonstrate an understanding of some of the key concepts in the readings and lecture.

For each application paper, you will need to find one international relations opinion or editorial article published in a major periodical or policy journal in the past month. Good sources of op-ed pieces include the *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Economist*, *Foreign Affairs* or *Foreign Policy*. Please include either a photocopy of the article or a web link to the article with your assignment.

The first paragraph of your essay should *briefly* summarize the issue at hand and the position the author is taking. The second paragraph should introduce a related concept/argument that is addressed in at least one of the course readings. Succinctly summarize the relevant scholars’ (i.e., the authors of the course readings) theses, logic

and evidence. The final paragraph should specifically address how the concept/argument relates to the position taken in your op-ed article. You might state if the op-ed piece is consistent or inconsistent with the relevant course reading(s) and why. Or, you can discuss how the op-ed article might help us better understand the implications of the relevant readings. Hint: ask yourself how the relevant scholars that you have read in class would respond to the op-ed article.

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

Appropriate Use of Email. University instructors are increasingly noticing that students are abusing the use of email in communicating with their instructors and section leaders. Please remember that any emails that you send will be carefully considered by the instructor or the section leaders, and that responses often take a considerable amount of time. The best place to receive a complete explanation of a major concept is in office hours, where the instructor or section leader can gauge your understanding in face-to-face contact. Email should primarily be reserved for brief clarification questions and notices of extenuating events that might affect your course participation (illness, travel, etc.). Also, in your emails for any class, I recommend using a greeting and a closing. This way, your emails will look more like a letter that deserves careful consideration instead of a “text message” that was hastily sent without much thought. Finally, please do not assume that the instructor and section leaders will be checking their email in the evenings.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1. **4/3)** Introductory Meeting
 4/5) 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*, [4th ed]. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1985. Chapter 1.

Week 2. **4/10)** Why a Second World War?
 4/12) How Do We Make Sense of the Cold War?

Assignment for Week 2 Discussion Sections:

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*. New York: Harper Collins, 1993. Chapter 4.

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

Week 3. **4/17)** Does 9/11 Suggest a Change in World Politics?
 4/19) Why Do States Sometimes Choose to Use Force?

Assignment for Week 3 Discussion Sections:

- Thomas C. Schelling. *The Strategy of Conflict*, [2nd ed.]. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University, 1960 [1980]. Chapter 1.
- Geoffrey Blainey. *The Causes of War*, [3rd ed.]. New York: The Free Press, 1973 [1988]. Chapter 9.
- Hans J. Morgenthau [and Kenneth W. Thompson]. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, [6th ed.]. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948 [1985]. Chapter 1.

- Week 4.** **4/24) Rational Inefficiency: Do Rational Actors Really Choose War?**
4/26) Do Domestic Institutions Matter?

Assignment for Week 4 Discussion Sections:

FIRST APPLICATION PAPER DUE

- Stephen van Evera. "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War." *International Security* 9 (Summer 1984), 58-107.
- 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 1983), 205-235.

- Week 5.** **5/1) MIDTERM EXAMINATION.**
5/3) How Does the International System of States Change?

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.

- Week 6.** **5/8) The Security Dilemma: Does Conflict Inhere in Anarchy?**
5/10) Unipolarity: Can a Hegemon Guarantee the Peace?

Assignment for Week 6 Discussion Sections:

- Robert Jervis. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30 (Jan 1978), 167-214.
- William C. Wohlforth. "The Stability of a Unipolar World." *International Security* 24 (Summer 1999), 5-41.

- Week 7.** **5/15) The Balance of Power: Can the "Invisible Hand" Protect Us?**
5/17) The Balance of Terror: Can MADness Save Us?

Assignment for Week 7 Discussion Sections:

- Christopher Layne. "The Unipolar Illusion: Why New Great Powers Will Rise." *International Security* 17 (Spring 1993), 5-51.
- Kenneth N. Waltz. "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities." *The American Political Science Review* 84 (Sep 1990), 731-745.

- Week 8.** **5/22) Can Global Governance Alleviate Anarchy?**

5/24) Can International Institutions Create Cooperation?

Assignment for Week 8 Discussion Sections:

John J. Mearsheimer. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19 (Winter 1994-1995), 5-49.

Robert O. Keohane and Lisa Martin. "The Promise of Institutional Theory." *International Security* 20 (Summer 1995), 39-51.

Week 9. 5/29) Memorial Day – No Class

5/31) Is the World Developing a Culture of Conflict or Cooperation?

Assignment for Week 9 Discussion Sections:

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.

John S. Duffield. "Political Culture and State Behavior: Why Germany Confounds Neorealism." *International Organization* 53 (Autumn 1999), 765-803.

Week 10. 6/5) Globalization: Are Transnational Actors Transforming Global Politics?

6/7) Are International Relations Really Changing?

Assignment for Week 10 Discussion Sections:

SECOND APPLICATION PAPER DUE

Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, Jr. "Globalization: What's New? What's Not? (And So What?)." *Foreign Policy* 118 (Spring 2000), 104-119.

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

Final Exam: Monday, June 12 at 11:30