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. This is organized around the central question of the course: 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?

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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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion sections</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional weight to the better exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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 24. (Regular class time)
- Final Examination. Tuesday, December 6. (12:00 noon)

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

**Maintaining Academic Integrity.** Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

**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.

**Podcasts.** All lectures should be available after class on the UCSD podcast web-site.

**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:

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dss.ucsd.edu/~proeder
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*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?

We Sep 28. Why Did Europe Slip into the First World War?

Assignment for Week 1 Discussion Sections:

Mo Oct 3. Why a Second World War?
We Oct 5. Who or What Was to Blame for the Cold War?

Assignment for Week 2 Discussion Sections:
International Security 10 (Spring 1986), 99-142.

Mo Oct 10. Was 9/11 the End of a Long Peace?

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

We Oct 12. Foreign Policies: What Makes Some States Aggressive?

Assignment for Week 3 Discussion Sections:

Mo Oct 17. Theories of Foreign Policies [continued].
We Oct 19. Theories of Foreign Policies [continued some more].

Assignment for Week 4 Discussion Sections:

III. INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS: WHY ARE SOME PEACEFUL?

Mo Oct 24. MIDTERM EXAMINATION.

Assignment for Week 5 Discussion Sections:

We Nov 2. Unipolarity: Can a Hegemon Again Guarantee the Peace?

Assignment for Week 6 Discussion Sections:

Mo Nov 7. Balance of Power: Can the “Invisible Hand” Protect Us?
We Nov 9. The Balance of Terror: Can MADness Save Us?

**Assignment for Week 7 Discussion Sections:**

Mo Nov 14. International Institutions: Can We Build Peace?
We Nov 16. Is the World Developing a Culture of Cooperation or Conflict?

**Assignment for Week 8 Discussion Sections:**

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

Mo Nov 21. Are New Actors Transforming Global Politics?
We Nov 23. The Day before Thanksgiving.
Mo Nov 28. Why Would Rational Economic Actors Ever Go to War?
We Nov 30. Are International Relations Really Changing?

**Assignment for Week 10 Discussion Sections:**

Tuesday, December 6. **FINAL EXAMINATION.** (12:00 noon)