Political Science 12 is an introduction to the problems of conflict and cooperation among sovereign states and the search for peace in a rapidly 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: Why war and what can we do to preserve the peace?

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. Has a Long Peace Just Ended?

II. STATES: 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: Is Conflict Inherent in Anarchy?
   C. Unipolarity: Can a Hegemon Guarantee the Peace?
   D. The Balance of Power System: 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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Course Objectives. Upon successful completion of this course, you should be better equipped to:
   a. Discuss and assess explanations for conflict and major proposals for securing peace within the contemporary international system.
   b. Describe key elements of the contemporary international system and explain how the modern international system emerged and is currently changing.
c. Identify the role of political realism, political economy, political sociology, and political psychology in the arguments made by major analysts in the social sciences and to formulate alternative causal explanations as though you belonged to each of these schools of thought.
d. Formulate written and oral causal explanations that are both theoretically rigorous and empirically grounded.

**Reading Assignments.** All readings are available on electronic reserve through the Library. There are no required books at the Bookstore.

Normally 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. Focus on the explanations rather than the facts (evidence). Pay close attention to the ways in which the authors’ intellectual assumptions shape their analyses. Note the different ways in which authors (1) frame their research questions, (2) use theory to derive expectations (hypotheses) about the empirical patterns we should observe, and (3) present evidence that they claim confirms their hypotheses.

**Lectures and Podcasts.** All lectures and PowerPoint presentations should be available after class on the UCSD podcast web-site. Outlines of each lecture are available before class on Canvass (the web-site formerly known as TritonED). Nevertheless, there is much more to lectures. Please learn to take notes on lectures, distilling the arguments that are presented. This practice will perfect a skill that will be essential to success in most professional careers. Also, according to experimental evidence, taking handwritten notes is the best way for you to incorporate the professional vocabulary and approaches into your own toolkit—a set of skills that makes others think that you are a professional.

**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 an 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 your TA.

**Examinations.** Each examination will include two parts—short-answer questions (completed in class in 30 minutes) and an essay (completed “at home”). The dates of the examinations are as follows:

- **Midterm Examination.** Monday, October 28. (Regular class time)
- **Final Examination.** Tuesday, December 10. (11:30 am)

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

**Grades.** Your course grade will be the weighted average of your performance as follows:

- Discussion sections: 20%
- Midterm examination: 35%
- Final examination: 35%
- Additional weight to the better exam: 10%

**Maintaining Academic Integrity.** UCSD takes academic integrity very seriously. This ensures that all students will be evaluated equally and fairly on the basis of the work they do for the class.

In this course, please submit only your own work. By taking this course, you agree to submit your papers for textual-similarity review by 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.

Canvas Course 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 Canvas (the web-site formerly known as TritonED).

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

I. WHY WAS THERE CONFLICT IN THE PAST?

Mo Sep 30. Introductory Meeting.
We Oct 2. Why Did Europe Slip into the First World War?

Assignment for Week 1 Discussion Sections:

Mo Oct 7. Why a Second World War?
We Oct 9. Who or What Was to Blame for the Cold War?

Assignment for Week 2 Discussion Sections:


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


Assignment for Week 3 Discussion Sections:
International Security 10 (Spring 1986), 99-142.


Assignment for Week 4 Discussion Sections:
III. INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS: WHY ARE SOME PEACEFUL?

Mo Oct 28. MIDTERM EXAMINATION.

Assignment for Week 5 Discussion Sections:
   [This is from a textbook and should be easy to master. Pay close attention to the argument on pp. 338-44 and 355-76.]

Mo Nov 4. The Security Dilemma: Does Conflict Inhere in Anarchy?
We Nov 6. Unipolarity: Can a Hegemon Again Guarantee the Peace?

Assignment for Week 6 Discussion Sections:
   [Pay particular attention to Layne’s thesis and theory on pages 5-16, read more quickly the two historical cases that he uses to support his theory on pages 16-32, and then think critically about his attempt to predict what will happen after 1993.]

   [Note how Brooks and Wohlforth propose refining the concept of polarity and how they attempt to operationalize this with precise measures. Do not become mired in the numbers, unless you enjoy this sort of thing.]

Mo Nov 11. Veteran’s Day [No lecture]
We Nov 13. Balance of Power: Can the “Invisible Hand” Protect Us?

Assignment for Week 7 Discussion Sections:
   [This exchange among political scientists in the public media speaks for itself.]

Mo Nov 18. The Balance of Terror: Can MADness Save Us?
We Nov 20. International Institutions: Can We Build Peace?
Mo Nov 25. Is the World Developing a Culture of Cooperation or Conflict?

Assignment for Week 8 Discussion Sections:
   [Read carefully Duffield’s thesis on pages 369-75 and theory on pages 375-8, but you can read more quickly the details of the European security regime on pages 379-86.]

   [This is a book review. Be sure to distinguish Mueller’s thesis and Kaysen’s refinement of that thesis.]

   [This very influential article speaks for itself.]
IV. WHERE DOES WORLD POLITICS GO FROM HERE?

We Nov 27. Are New Actors Transforming Global Politics?
Mo Dec 2. Why Would Rational Economic Actors Ever Go to War?
We Dec 4. Are International Relations Really Changing?

Assignment for Week 10 Discussion Sections:
[Compare Mousseau and Glaser’s very different analyses of the current state of the international order. They reflect diverging theoretical approaches that we have encountered in this course.]

Tuesday, December 10. FINAL EXAMINATION. (11:30 am)