

## MUN Course Plan

### **Intro**

- As genuine model UN competitions usually take place over a number of days, each with many (5-9) hours of debate, the rules/structure of this class will be altered a great deal in order to maximize student's exposure to global issues, and allow them ample time to discuss the issues
- As such, this class will operate as a simulated hour long sessions of 'moderated caucus' or the primary type of organized debate in model United Nations
- Students will be assigned countries in week 1, and will remain 'representatives' of said country for the duration of the course allowing them to become very well acquainted with the country's policies
  - Please do not challenge the assigned countries - some countries are seemingly 'bigger' or 'more important' but I promise that there is a great deal of power in smaller countries as well. I personally won Best Delegate at a Model UN conference as the Solomon Islands - a country that I had previously never heard of.
- REMEMBER - you are taking on the role of the country you are assigned. In some cases, you may find the opinion/position of your country controversial. That's okay, and no one is going to think any less of you for defending an otherwise problematic position. The purpose of model UN is to become well acquainted with the perspectives of cultures and countries different to our own, to have productive debate, and to understand the difficulty of reaching consensus on an international level.
- I would recommend having a binder (if printing physical copies/writing notes) or a designated electronic folder to keep/organize research and notes for discussion. Remember, students are representing not their own views but the views of the country they are assigned!
- Students will not be required to write resolutions etc, but rather, they should read up on the issues generally by completing the background reading, as well as doing their own *independent* research with regards to their assigned country's stance on particular issues (eg. if a student is assigned Russia, they should do the background reading provided, as well as explore the Russian government's stance/particular views/policies on the issue for the week)
- The topics and committees for weeks 2-10 are below, and the resources required for background reading as well as an explanation will be provided on the website each week (example for week 2 below).

### **Week 1**

#### Preparation for Class:

- Familiarize yourself with the aims and goals of the United Nations, its major organizations, and its powers (this is a non-exhaustive list of resources - feel free to read some, all, or even more than what is listed here).
  - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations>

- <https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/>
- <https://www.un.org/un70/en/content/history/index.html>
- <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>
- Familiarize yourself with model UN, and particularly the idea of a ‘moderated caucus’ as that will be the structure/rules of the class! Don’t worry if the rules are a bit unclear for you currently - our first class will be spent clearing things up

### Class Activities:

- Introductions and icebreaker games
- Class discussion of the UN and Model UN
  - a. What are the main aims of the UN?
  - b. What are the UN’s main organs and sub-committees?
  - c. What power does the UN have?
  - d. Why is the UN important?
  - e. What is the history of the UN?
  - f. What is Model UN?
- Overview of the simplified rules and procedures for moderated caucus that will be used in this course
- Country assignments
- Questions/conclusions

### Homework:

- Research your assigned country and become familiar with it on a basic level - the CIA world factbook is a helpful resource, and you should fill out the BestDelegate ‘country profile’ worksheet and add it to your binder
  - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
  - <https://bestdelegate.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Best-Delegate-Country-Profile.pdf>
  - <https://bestdelegate.com/mun-research-made-easy-15-things-every-delegate-should-have-in-their-research-binder/>
- Read the background reading for next week’s topic as well as independently researching your country’s stance on the issue

## **Week 2 (first week of moderated caucus)**

### Topic/Committee:

Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies - World Health Organization (WHO)

### Explanation:

Following major conflicts or natural disasters, hundreds and occasionally millions of people are displaced and relocated to temporary locations with a high population density, such as refugee camps. The World Health Organization has established that those affected by mass relocation are at a significantly higher risk for disease due to inadequate food and shelter, unsafe water, and poor sanitation and hygiene. This is of particular concern in the midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic, and requires more attention now than ever. Delegates must work together to ensure the health and well-being of those impacted by humanitarian emergencies. The committee must address their ideas

for how to provide operational support during crises, strengthen partnerships with local organizations, provide technical support, and improve training workshops/education. Importantly, there should be a focus on the specific impact of COVID-19 in delegates' own countries, as well as in countries with a high concentration of refugees etc. (in some cases, delegates will have been assigned countries that are specifically affected by this issue).

### **Week 3**

#### Topic/Committee:

Improving Literacy Rates Among Indigenous Peoples - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

### **Week 4**

#### Topic/Committee:

Reducing the Illicit Arms Trade in Africa - Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

### **Week 5**

#### Topic/Committee:

Eliminating Child Labor - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

### **Week 6**

#### Topic/Committee:

Broadening the Scope of Women's Citizenship, Leadership, and Political Participation in Transition Countries - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

### **Week 7**

#### Topic/Committee:

Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance - Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

### **Week 8**

#### Topic/Committee:

Promoting Sustainable Mining Practices - United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

### **Week 9**

#### Topic/Committee:

Supplying Sustainable Energy Sources to Small Island Developing States - International Energy Associate (IEA)

### **Week 10**

#### Topic/Committee:

Space Security and Militarization - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)