

**Spring Valley High School
Model United Nations
Course Expectations (2014 – 2015)**



Model United Nations

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please read the attached course description, grading policy, and behavioral expectations for Model United Nations students. As a concerned parent, I am sure you will want to know what your son or daughter is expected to accomplish during the school year. Please print page seven of this document, sign the page, and have your student return it to us as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact either one of us directly.

Sincerely,

*Ian Salzman
Model United Nations Advisor
Email: imsalzman@interact.ccsd.net
Phone: (702) 799 – 2580, ext. 805*

*Lisa Ancona
Model United Nations Advisor
Email: laancona@interact.ccsd.net
Phone: (702) 799 – 2580, ext. 826*



**Course Syllabus and Expectations
MODEL UNITED NATIONS
Course Title: Global Diplomacy and the United Nations (Honors)**

What is Model United Nations?

At Spring Valley High School, MUN is a year long, credit bearing, honors level elective class: “Global Diplomacy and the United Nations Honors.” The course is highly interactive and involves simulation of the committees, debates, and activities of the real United Nations. Students are involved in Model UN through their 12th grade year.

What does a Model United Nations student do?

MUN students actively research, debate, problem-solve, and write proposals on world issues while simulating the committees of the real United Nations. They also attend travel conferences to compete against other students and schools from all over the world. At Spring Valley High School, our MUN students have traveled internationally and hosted international exchange students for several weeks.

How will Model United Nations benefit students?

The public speaking, research, writing, critical thinking, problem solving, diplomatic, and leadership skills, not to mention the knowledge students gain in world affairs can have a positive impact on a student’s readiness for college and careers. Additionally, MUN can make students stand out to colleges and scholarship committees. The MUN experience also promotes cultural diversity and fosters a deeper understanding of the interconnected, global society we live in.

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When does Model United Nations meet?

MUN class meets Mondays after school for one hour, during eight (or more) pre-scheduled Saturday session for four hours each, and at MUN conferences (usually involving travel) which last from one day to four days.

How do teachers/advisors communicate with Model United Nations Students?

Enrolled students must use Edmodo, and must join the Spring Valley High School Model UN group online with email or text alerts programmed appropriately in order to keep informed of assignments, announcements, and other alerts about the Model United Nations Program.

Access to Edmodo (including computer and internet access) is a requirement of the course.

How are Model United Nations students graded?

MUN is a demanding class with very high academic standards. Grades are based on a point scale where one hour of course work typically equals up to ten points, but all the work is expected to be of high quality and may require more time to complete to high standards.

Points may be deducted in the event of late work or less than exceptional performance on any given assignment or test. Additionally, MUN students are expected to attend at least two MUN conferences per year.

Grading Scale:

- 90% - 100% = A Excellent
- 80% - 89% = B Above Average
- 70% - 79% = C Average
- 60% - 69% = D Below Average
- 0% - 59% = F Failure

As there is no semester exam for this course, all semester course work accounts for 100% of the student's grade.

For this course, there is no differentiation or weight for course work versus assessment grades. All work is assigned a point value based on completion hours and student participation and assignments are scored appropriately based on overall quality.

Is late work allowed for Model United Nations students?

No. All work is due on the assigned due date to obtain full credit.

Late work is unacceptable unless teacher grants special permission due to extenuating circumstances. Students who encounter potential issues or time conflicts with posted due dates

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are encouraged to communicate with the teacher IN ADVANCE of missing a posted deadline or due date so that alternate arrangements can be made.

What about make-up Work?

After any excused absence, the STUDENT shall be required to check Edmodo for required assignments. For missed Saturday sessions, students are generally required to complete a country position paper on the topic for the session they missed (two pages minimum) and a draft resolution proposing solutions for the issue discussed (one page minimum). These assignments should be turned into the persons chairing during the missed class.

Conference participation is a crucial part of Model United Nations and students must attend any local conferences and the Showcase event in May. Besides the mandatory local conferences students should attempt to attend one travel conference per semester. In the event a student cannot meet the local conference requirement for any reason, they must request alternative assignments from their teacher of record.

How are Model United Nations students selected?

Selections for the Model UN class, as well as conference assignments are highly competitive and based on a variety of factors. Model UN Advisors make selections based on student academic transcripts and grades, challenging and rigorous course selections, teacher and administrator recommendations, proven public speaking and/or performance experience, strong research and writing capabilities, positive attendance and behavior records, and overall performance during practice sessions during the Model UN Elective. Additionally, it is our goal to create a program that reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of our school.

Can a student exit the Model United Nations Program (or be exited?)

Model United Nations is a year-long course and students enrolling in Model United Nations must remain enrolled for the duration of the school year. Students will not be dropped from the course during the course while a school year is in progress.

As Model United Nations requires filed trip eligibility, students must maintain passing grades in their other academic courses and secure teacher signatures authorizing them to miss school in order to attend Model UN conferences. If students are unable to maintain eligibility due to grades or poor attendance, they may be exited from the Model United Nations program until they are able to consistently earn grades of C or better in all academic courses.

Students who do not comply with school and CCSD policies and are RPC'd or suspended for disciplinary reasons may be exited from Model United Nations immediately.

Are there costs involved?

Yes. Like any other program involving travel or field trips, there are costs associated with each Model UN conference. There is a onetime course fee of \$50 that can be paid to the banker and

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in addition there will be fees for the optional travel conferences. Letters for each travel conference opportunity detailing the costs are sent home to parents/guardians as soon as possible including detailed itineraries and payment due dates. Fundraising activities will be organized throughout the year whenever possible to assist with raising the needed funds to attend Model UN conferences. Additionally, a limited number of scholarships may be available and will be awarded based on financial need, student essays, and overall academic achievement.

Additionally, students will need to wear appropriate formal business attire while participating in Model United Nations conferences, (i.e. suits and ties for boys, suits or dresses for girls.)

Are there expectations for classroom behavior and behavior on field trips and at Model United Nations conferences?

Model United Nations students represent Spring Valley High School and CCSD at conferences in other states and countries and students will be held to the highest standards of behavior. Students must always exemplify positive, professional behaviors and refrain from negative ones.

Negative behaviors include: writing notes to other students; talking unnecessarily; combing hair, polishing nails, or using makeup; working on other homework; rude or disruptive language/actions; tardiness; sleeping; cheating; bringing food, beverages, candy or gum into class (unless for scheduled meetings); misusing property belonging to other students, the teacher, or the school; visiting inappropriate Internet sites; failure to be prepared for class; leaving seat without permission; violating the school dress code or dressing inappropriately for conferences; violating the school nuisance item policy (including texting and inappropriate cell phone use).

All CCSD and School Policies (including those applicable to field trips) apply to this class and will be enforced.

Attendance and Tardy policies will be strictly enforced. Students with excessive absences and/or tardies will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include warnings, parent contact, RPC's, or other consequences.

If unacceptable behavior occurs, the following discipline procedures will be followed:

1. Student warning
2. Parental contact
3. Disciplinary referral

Teacher reserves the right to bypass the first two steps where serious discipline problems require immediate attention.

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Student:

<i>Last Name:</i>	<i>First Name:</i>
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Parents / Guardians (First and Last names please):

<i>Last Name:</i>	<i>First Name:</i>
<i>Last Name:</i>	<i>First Name:</i>

Mailing address:

- Parent's e-mail address: _____
- Parent's Home phone: _____
- Parent's Cell phone: _____
- Parent's Work phone: _____

Best way to reach parent: _____

Please sign below to indicate that you have received and read the course description for Model United Nations and agree to follow the policies and procedures contained in this document.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

The student should sign and date this paper and return it to me to show that he or she has read the course description.

Signature of Student

Date

Student Number