Manlius Pebble Hill School

Model United Nations

SYLLABUS 2019-2020

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1. **Course Description**

Students who participate in the Model United Nations course train to attain mastery in research and public speaking applied to thinking critically about our world’s problems and how to solve them. They become members of a value oriented team that has competed and will compete in high level national and international conferences during which they serve as delegates from countries debating solutions to world problems. Students examine a range of international topics, as well as prepare to represent assigned countries at MUN conferences throughout the year. The course has regular lessons on international economics and law, parliamentary procedure, public speaking, current events, political science in general, and research skills. The class sends delegations to participate at local, statewide, and national or international conferences. Students are required to attend and to write resolutions proposing solutions to global problems and to submit those resolutions for consideration at conferences. Participants lobby to have their resolutions accepted for debate, debate various resolutions in committees, and endeavor to win approval of their resolutions. This course requires extensive research, refinement of ideas, and writing. Students displaying a superior degree of dedication, demonstrated ability, dependability, good behavior, and initiative may be invited on a year-by-year basis to participate in a national or an international MUN. Students are expected to attend a specified number of local or regional conferences.

1. **Purpose**

The goal of the Model United Nations class is to prepare students both academically and socially to become positive contributing members of society in the context of global citizenry. Further, students are expected to learn rigorous independent research and writing skills as well as public speaking. This is done in a student driven environment where team building and student led exercises allows students to teach one another and develop bonds that last far beyond their high school careers. The objectives of the course beyond performing well on the AP Exam include students being able to do the following:

* Understand and embrace the 5 core MPHMUN values: **Character, Caring, Chemistry, Commitment, Competence**
* Understand the procedures, rules, and conventions of the MUN process;
* Be able to articulate the positions of a given nation or interest group around particular global challenges;
* Understand the structure of international relations and be conversant in current events;
* Conduct college-level research on topics before the UN;
* Make public presentations that are substantive, well-organized, and smartly delivered;
* Have an understanding of key negotiation tactics such as coalition-building, persuasion, and issue framing;
* Be able to work effectively as a group on challenges such as collective decision making and conflict management.
* Appreciate the impact of the past upon the present
* Value the benefits of undertaking challenging tasks, even if the results are imperfect
* Source evidence and understand and avoid the pitfalls of plagiarism and shoddy research
  + Produce writing of a level acceptable in a collegiate environment

1. **Texting and Social Media Guidelines**

Proper and professional use of technology is a very important skill to learn. Given that the team interacts closely with one another, are out at conferences and maintain varied hours, and generally form close bonds, it is important to follow protocol. The following are some general guidelines for when texting or communicating in a professional setting or on behalf of the team.

* + Always address the person by their formal title
  + Always end the communication with your name
  + Always use appropriate language- avoid slang and never use expletives
  + Do not text after 10:00 pm. Do not expect a response on a business matter after 6:00 pm.
  + Be aware of the media you are posting on-
  + Never discuss other members of the team in a non-professional matter
  + If you are in doubt about what you are posting or texting then do not do it

**MPHMUN Conference**

Each year MPH hosts the opening conference of the season. All students in the class are required to participate in set up and are required to attend. MPHMUN plays host to roughly 300 students, a major undertaking requiring the commitment of all team members. Students will either be serving as delegates in committees, committee chairs, or members of the secretariat. Other duties and tasks may also be assigned. The students in this class maintain a web page devoted to MUN activities at MPH. That web page can be found at: <http://mun.mphtechnology.net/about/>

This year the conference is scheduled for **Saturday, October 26th, 2019.**

**Annual Conference schedules and attendance expectations**

There are 5 conferences that team members attend after MPHMUN. Not all team members attend every conference but there is an expectation that **every student** will, including MPHMUN, attend **at least 3 conferences** each season. When students do not attend they fail to develop MUN skills and the team as a whole suffers as a result. Attendance to any conference however is dependent on the commitment to core values: Character; Caring; Chemistry; Commitment; Competence. It is also dependent on the ability to demonstrate mastery of content, process, and delivery.

This year MPH will attend MUN conferences in Montreal (November), NYC (February), Utica (December), Syracuse (January), and Rochester (March).

**Practice Schedule and Conference Costs**

In order to effectively prepare for conferences and perform well, students will be expected to attend practices outside of class time. Typically these practices are held on Sundays and are about 2-3 hours long. There may be after school practice time too. There are about 3-4 Sunday practices in the season. The practice schedule is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Practice** | **Date** | **Time** |
| Team Lunch | Thursday, September 12th | 1:10-1:35 |
| Team Lunch | Tuesday, September 17th | 1:10-1:35 |
| Simulation | Sunday, September 22nd | 2-5:30 |
| Chair Meeting | Sunday, October 13th | 2-5 |
| Team Lunch | Thursday, October 17th | 1:10-1:35 |
| Team Practice | Sunday, October 20th | 2-5 |
| SSUNS Team Practice and Dinner | Sunday, Nov 10th | 3-6:30 |
| Team Lunch | Thursday, December 19th | 1:10-1:40 |
| CNYMUN Team Practice | Sunday, January 5th | 2-5 |
| Team Lunch | Friday, January 17th | 1:10-1:35 |
| NHSMUN Team Practice | Sunday, February 23 | 2-5 |

Conferences do cost money to attend. MPHMUN makes every effort to reduce costs and make it easier for students to attend. An estimated cost for each conference is listed below. This cost is **an estimate** and is **subject to change**. When students attend, the bursar’s office will charge the parents account.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Conference** | **Dates** | **Location** | **Minimum Attendance** | **9th** | **10th** | **11th** | **12th** | **Expected Cost** | **Last Day to Register** |
| MPHMUN | October 26th | MPH | 100% ATTENDANCE | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | $0 | September 9th, 2019 |
| SSUNS | Nov 14th - Nov 17th | Montreal | 15 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | $600 | October 14th, 2019 |
| UMVMUN | December 7th | SUNY Utica | 16 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | $50 | October 14th, 2019 |
| CNYMUN | January 10th- January 11th | Syracuse University | 20 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | $40 | October 14th, 2019 |
| NHSMUN | February 28th - March 2nd | New York City | 15 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | $750-800 | October 14th, 2019 |
| UNAR | March 13th - March 14th | Rochester | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | $200 | October 14th, 2019 |

We believe that the MUN program at MPH is a tremendous benefit for students and we understand what an immense financial investment parents make for students in the MUN program. Keeping conference costs down for all students is a priority for us and we are working towards that goal. The parents are the backbone of the school and the MUN team and we thank you for all that you do.

**Resources**

All students are expected to maintain familiarity with international challenges and crises occurring around the world on a daily and weekly basis. You can do so by accessing the following resources:

*Current events*

* Daily: Major international newspapers such as:
  + The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>
  + The Washington Post <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
  + BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/>
  + Or other international newspapers from around the world that can be accessed through the following site: <http://www.refdesk.com/paper.html>
* Daily: United Nations News Center: <http://www.un.org/News/>
* Weekly: International Peace and Security Institute <http://ipsinstitute.org/news-events/> (scroll down and click on the “Read this week’s Peace & Security Report” tab**)**
* Weekly: The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>
* Monthly: The International Crisis Groups publication *CrisisWatch*: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/crisiswatch.aspx>

*Global Issues:*

* The UN’s Global Issues Page: <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/>
* The UN’s main website: <http://www.un.org/en/>
* The Council of Foreign Relations: https://www.cfr.org/

*Country Profiles:*

* CIA World Fact Book. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
* Portal to country specific information: <http://reference.allrefer.com/>
* The Economist Intelligence Unit: <http://www.eiu.com/>

*MUN Delegate Preparation Guide. Available at:* <http://www.nmun.org/ny_archives/ny13_downloads/Delegate_Prep_Guide2013.pdf>

**Grades**

***Although MUN is a class it is also a team. Grades are therefore heavily based on participation and upholding the core values.***

**Upholding ‘The Core’**

In anatomy, “the core” refers to the muscles in your pelvis, lower back, hips and abdomen that work in harmony to provide your entire body with balance, stability, and strength. Without a strong core, the body can’t function effectively as an integrated whole. For the MPHMUN team to function effectively we need a strong core too. Students will be expected to know these values and embrace these values. Our core values (5 Cs) to which we commit are: *Character, Caring, Chemistry, Commitment, Competence.*

**Active participation** of all students is expected during all classes. The participation portion of your grade will be based on your regular participation in discussions and your full participation group exercises. For every class, you should be prepared to talk about any reading assigned as well as prepared to discuss current global events and crises.

**Research and Writing**

Position papers*.* Position papers are the basic building block for any recommended resolutions achieved at MUN conferences. Students will be expected to write several position papers in training and preparation for conferences. These papers will be subject to peer editing or instructor evaluation. Position papers must be clear of any errors (substantive or typographical), submitted in the proper format, and be submitted on time with proper sourcing and citations.

**Public Speaking / Oral Presentations**

Being an effective public speaker, advancing and argument, and marshalling appropriate information and facts in support of that argument are key learning objectives for this course. All students will be required to speak publicly extensively both after preparation and extemporaneously.

I am honored to be coaching this team. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me anytime you have a question. I am looking forward to working with each of you this year.