

## LAKE TRAVIS HIGH SCHOOL

MODEL



UNITED NATIONS

### **Course Description and Expectations:**

The Model United Nations novice class promotes the growth of global citizens. Throughout the year you will develop the skills necessary to discuss and resolve problems concerning peace and security, energy, the environment, global health and poverty, human rights, and nation development. You will gain an understanding of the structure, history, and purpose of the United Nations. You will also become delegates yourselves in classroom simulations and at out-of-school conferences. As a member of the class your grade will be determined by simulation preparation, text reading and discussion, socratic seminars, and active participation in classroom deliberations. To facilitate your understanding about the international system in the 21st century, we will read and explore various sources and participate in graded discussions. These activities will help develop an understanding of diplomacy, foreign policy, and international relations.

### **Model UN Conference Participation:**

All students should attend Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) or another conference the club attends. There will be approximately four conferences throughout the year to choose from. While the hope is that students attend all conferences, this may not be possible or feasible. **Participation in at least one out-of-school conference is the logical extension of having taken the MUN1 class.** Please keep this in mind if you have other extracurricular obligations.

### **Structure of the Class:**

This is an inquiry based class. Students will be given a guiding questions and topics each day and are expected to use available resources to deepen their personal understanding. You will work independently, collaboratively in your “houses” with mentoring MUN Officers, and as a full group to discuss the inquiry topics. You will be given direction and ample time to research. Research skills will be emphasized, and there will be periodic binder checks in order to maintain research accountability.

MUN is a process. The goal for the year is for you to grow in your awareness of real-world issues, your ability to synthesize these issues, improve your verbal processing skills, and gain confidence in and the the ability to support your opinions and beliefs.

### **Student Evaluation:**

Quizzes (Current Events and Content): 10%

Position Papers/Background Guides: 30%

In-Class Simulation Participation/Preparation: 20%

Reading Assignments, In-Depth Analysis of a Foreign Policy Issue: 20%

Current Global Issues Analysis: 20%

### **Main Texts**

- **Course Curriculum adapted from the United Nations Association of the United States of America - A Program of the United Nations Foundation**
  - **Available online - paper copies issued in class**
    - [Economics of Globalization](#)
    - [Human Rights](#)
    - [Sustainable Development](#)
  - [How to Win Friends and Influence People](#) \$9.60 on Amazon  
(midterm is an application of this book)
  - Great Decisions 2015 (students will be provided with a copy)

### **Supplies**

- 3 Ring Binder 2" or larger
- Highlighters

### **Course Calendar**

During our introductory year, the MUN 1 calendar will be a continuous work in progress. Please check our [class calendar](#) often, but please understand this is a living, breathing, and evolving document.

*"We the Peoples of the United Nations Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to humankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small..."*

-Charter of the United Nations