

UCLA Model United Nations Summer Institute (MUNSI)

2021 Summer Syllabus

- **Description of the Summer Institute:**

Students in MUNSI will simulate the United Nations through debate of international relations in subsidiary committees.

- **Prior to the start of the Summer Institute:**

Students will have the opportunity to select a preferred committee and entity to represent, will be provided with related Background Guides and Research Guides, and will be required to write and submit two short position papers even before MUNSI begins! Doing initial research prior to the start of the Model UN Summer Institute and writing these position papers will greatly aid students to start thinking critically about the topics presented, and will also allow all participants (novice and experienced, alike) to be well prepared for the start of MUNSI. Further details will be distributed to participants prior to the start of the program.

- **Once the Summer Institute begins:**

Students will be given detailed instruction on the rules and procedure of Model United Nations in order to make for effective debate while simultaneously teaching students strategies of public speaking and cooperative crisis resolution. Next, students will be examining some of the most pressing international flash points of the modern day. This examination will take place both through lecture and through interactive and cooperative research initiatives in preparation for the United Nations' committee simulations. Rather than simply learning facts about international affairs and countries' foreign policies, students will be required to conduct this research from the perspectives of assigned countries. Then, the bulk of the class will operate within these respective committees, where students will debate the best solutions to these flash points, with the goal of providing security and stability through collaborative resolution writing.

In addition to the substance of modern diplomacy, this course will cover the subject of diplomatic protocol, as well as addressing students' practical communication skills in writing executive summaries, talking points, diplomatic

reports as well as writing and delivering speeches, all of which are vital requirements for an effective diplomat.

- **Grading Evaluation:**

As the week of the Summer Institute will be equivalent to one full class, attendance each day is crucial and more than 1 day's absence will result in a grade of NP. Students are expected to conduct proper research relevant to their committees, participate in the flow of debate and cooperation, as well as arrive to class on time and actively participate in all related exercises of the Summer Institute.

Position Papers - 10%

Debate Participation - 40%

Committee Caucusing - 30%

Resolution Writing - 20%