

## ***Honors Model United Nations***

Mr. Erik Wolf

[ewolf@amphi.com](mailto:ewolf@amphi.com)

(520) 407-4127

Ironwood Ridge High School, Room A207

2475 W. Naranja Dr.

Tucson, AZ 85742

I am looking forward to another wonderful year here at Ironwood Ridge. We foster an environment that effectively prepares students for higher education or any goals which they may aspire to. Personally, I have always had a love for education and particularly, the field of history. Related and inherently intertwined with history, politics has also always sparked an interest. With that in mind, I proposed a course known simply as Model United Nations in which students learned about the intricacies and effects of the UN. The course involves a club in which students then attend conferences and apply what they have learned while taking on the roles of varying nations' diplomats. The course was soon deemed worthy of being an Honors course. With this year beginning online, this course will seem different in many ways, not the least of which being the traditional face-to-face formal and informal speeches. However, I am sure, though, that this year's students will continue the already well-established prominence of Ironwood Ridge High School's MUN program regardless of the challenges faced. My certification is in history for grades 7-12. I have a B.A. in Secondary Education from Arizona State University and have heard most jokes about it, so good luck being original!

### **Course Overview**

This course, while having taken into account other somewhat-related courses throughout the country, was devised as one in which I feel is best for the students to be exposed to current and past events and how the international governing body of the United Nations is able to aid in the alleviation of any issues prior or during a conflict. The students learn the setup of the UN and then the protocol of the internationally recognized Model UN system to then apply their knowledge and debating prowess at conferences throughout the country. It is due to this relationship with Ironwood Ridge's MUN Club that students in this course in past years would attend conferences as a part of their class grade. With the challenges presented by COVID, any conferences would be entirely online. In nearly 20 years of running Model UN, there has never been a time where an online conference has been a necessity, so it remains to be seen how those will be conducted. While most courses have a direct link for state standards, as they are mandated by the state for admission into college, MUN is a conglomeration of several disciplines including, but not limited to: history, government, speech/debate, and drama. As such, there are no standards specific to the course, but should any questions arise in connection with standards from the aforementioned disciplines or any other for that matter, they are available per request from myself or for anyone on the AZ Dep't of Ed. website: <http://ade.state.az.us>

### **Materials**

Students need access to their respective Google Classroom to find daily classwork and homework when it's assigned. Contained within their Google Classroom are folders for all components of the class including materials and class information. In those students will find a copy of this syllabus, the specific Zoom address for their class, the online class schedule, et. al.

### **Attendance Policy**

Under the circumstances of an unexcused absence, the student will be able to make up the work missed, but will be docked 25% of the possible grade immediately. For example, should one complete an assignment and attain all points possible, I will record a 75%. In the case of an excused absence, the student will be given the time allowed by others when the assignment was originally introduced. The only exception would be any assignments which approach grading deadlines. For instance, if a project is assigned and the students were allotted 10 class days, but there remains only 5 days until grades must be completed for the semester or grading period, then it is up to the student to complete the assignment in time for grades to be completed. Per Arizona state law and Amphitheater Governing Board Policy, please be advised students cannot miss more than 10% of each class. Students enrolled in year-long courses may only have 17 excused absences, after which all additional absences will be marked as "unexcused." Students in semester-long courses may only have 9 excused absences, after which, each additional absence will be marked as "unexcused." Please note, teachers are not required to provide make-up work for any absence that is marked "unexcused."

### Tardy Policy

In my traditional classroom, tardies are dealt with in a swift and strict manner. Remote learning will be no different. Students are expected to log in to the Zoom on time with their cameras on, dressed appropriately, and with an appropriate background. Students failing to do so will receive a warning and call or email home. Administration will be involved if the behavior does not improve.

### Grading Policy

This course carries a weighted grade. Grades are to be assigned in the traditional method which is as follows:

- A=90% and above
- B=80%-89%
- C=70%-79%
- D=60%-69%
- F=below 60%

Grades are evaluated for the *possibility* of rounding up by meeting both of the following criteria:

- student's grade is within half of a point of the next grade possible (i.e., 89.5+, 79.5+, 69.5+, or 59.5+)
- The student's academic record in the class has been evaluated and has not turned up an excessive number of unexcused absences, tardies, late work submissions, or classroom management altercations.

### Cheating

Simply stated, there is no place in my classroom for plagiarism or cheating, period! If either is attempted or completed by one or more students, each engaging in such an act will be given a **zero**, regardless of the size of the assignment, quiz, or test. In the instance of confiscating work from other courses, that teacher will be contacted.

### Classroom Behavior

It is my desire and hope that every student entering my classroom, virtually or in person, feels immediately at home and comfortable within its confines. Students are not to demean others in any manner, nor are they to question any of my policies (i.e., grading, seating arrangements, homework assigned, etc.). I also have a "no profanity *law*" in my class. There will be no cussing, swearing, or any derogatory statements made regarding a fellow student's race, color, creed, religion, appearance, etc. This is not open to debate. The student is to behave in a manner which is respectful and appropriate to myself and his/her peers. His/her behavior should allow for the maximum amount of learning in my classroom. Consequences for any altercations which might impede the learning process will be handed out according to the severity of the situation. In some instances, the student will be referred to administration. In addition, the student should treat the virtual classroom in the same way s/he would a traditional classroom, so food should not be eaten during class.

### Educational Philosophy

Teaching is not only my job, but my *passion*! I truly feel all students are capable of learning and excelling. I take it very seriously, and I strive for excellence in every way possible. I am readily available for any help in addition to the allotted classroom time via Zoom. I look forward to the rest of the year and wish all of my students luck and continued success in everything that they do.