

[HOME](#)[STAFF](#)[RAS](#)[INSTRUCTORS](#)[COURSE DESCRIPTIONS](#)[ACTIVITIES](#)[FAQ](#)

## TGS Model UN

[Model UN, what is it anyway?](#)  
[How is a Model UN actually run?](#)  
[What will we be debating?](#)  
[Getting into the Role](#)  
[Global Perspectives](#)  
[How do I turn this into a resolution?](#)  
[What is going to happen when we run Model UN?](#)  
[Challenges and Policy Considerations](#)  
[Resources for Research](#)  
[Resources for Research Topics](#)  
[Model UN Parliamentary Cheat Sheet](#)

For more information see [Scott Perry](#), he is one of the writing instructors.

### Model UN, what is it anyway?

- As the name implies, the Model UN models what goes on at the United Nations. The main objective is to learn the complexities of global governance through role-play as UN Member States.
- Students should become aware of the United Nations, its mission, its successes, and its failures in order to understand how these factors will carry over into the Model United Nations.
- The links below will help you understand the challenge inherent in the organization.
- Please keep in mind you will be role-playing the UN Security Council (UNSC).
  1. Composed of 15 members, five of which (US, UK, Russian Federation, China, France) are permanent members and have veto power.
  2. To pass a UNSC resolution, it takes nine (9) votes and the five permanent members must all agree to the resolution. If one of the five permanent members vetoes the resolution, it is destroyed. Naturally, this was much more of an issue during the Cold War than it is now, as Russia and the U.S. would often use this veto power to create UNSC insolvency.
  3. The UNSC is run by a President who presides for a month. The United States holds this position for the month of June, so the United States will be running our UNSC.
  4. The UNSC is designed to uphold the peace. Any issue that could cause

strife in the world is up for review by the UNSC. If fighting breaks out in an area, the UNSC will first try to mitigate peace, but the UNSC can also use economic sanctions and military action (Peacekeeping missions) to uphold the peace.

5. Although other UN bodies can "make suggestions" for states to follow, the UNSC can pass resolutions that member states are obliged to follow.
6. However, since there is no real global police, and UNSC resolutions can be halted with a single veto, states with power really do not have to follow these obligations either.
7. Since there is no world government, states agree to follow these rules and obligations, but they can back out of them when it serves state interests. Weaker states can be strong armed into following these rules and obligations, but for states with more power, it really is a game of "what can you get away with." However, most states do follow these rules or laws just because it makes it easier on everyone.
8. One critique of the UN is that the powerful states use it to control weaker states and the states with the most buy in to the system really have little to no power. Moreover, stronger states may or may not see the UN or even the UNSC as a political body they want to go through, as unilateral action may be more in that state's interest.

Resources:

[United Nations in Brief](#)  
[UNSC Presidency](#)  
[UNSC Information](#) (Really good page)  
[UNSC Structure](#) (Who does what in committee)  
[UN Charter](#)

### How is a Model UN actually Run?

- Keep in mind Model UN teams prepare for a year and then go to completion. What we are running is designed to fit within the three weeks we have to pull this together. Naturally, some of this will cross over easier for those of you who debate.
- If you have done Student Congress as a TFA or NFL event, you have a leg up here. Think of the UNSC as a Student Congress with the President organizing the parliamentary debate.
- Model UN can follow the UN procedures or Robert's Rules of Order. We will be using Robert's Rules of Order.
- Below you will find a PowerPoint for Robert's Rules of Order, which will show you how to carry out motions and two cheat sheets.

Resources:

[Parliamentary Procedure](#) (PowerPoint)  
[Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order](#) (Word doc)  
[Robert's Rules of Order Motion Chart](#) (Word doc)

**OK. So, I get the organizational structure and how we will be debating as the UNSC, but I am not sure on what we will be debating?**

- This is where you will stretch your GT abilities and make connections between the scientific and the political.
- Remember that the UNSC deals with crisis that could lead to war, and it can mediate states in conflict, encourage them to find peaceful resolutions to their conflict through diplomacy or it can encourage them through the strong arm of economic sanctions or UN Peacekeeping.
- If you look at the topics and think of how is this leading to conflict that is causing war or could cause war, you will be on the right step.
- Bother a CX debater at this point. CX Debate trains people to take practically any subject and tie it back into warfare. They should be able to guide you into creating a scenario for UNSC intervention.
- For example, climate change is an issue that affects everyone in the world; however, certain states cause more pollution than other states. After researching climate change, I would research China's economy and the amount of pollutants they produce. Naturally, China will not want to adapt its industry procedures because it is not in its immediate economic interest. Moreover, China is trying to become a major world economic power (assuming it is not one already) and anything that will slow it down is not in its interest. As a member of the UNSC, you may decide that the threats caused by climate change justify a global security threat and your resolution can focus on placing economic sanctions on China until it finds cleaner ways to run its industry. Please keep in mind China has veto power! How will you get around this? That is the nature of politics and diplomacy.
- The best examples are past UNSC resolutions; see the link below for examples. Just remember, the UNSC deals with global crisis and is supposed to be the one who keeps the peace.

Resources:

[Past UNSC Resolutions](#)

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**Getting into the Role: States in a Self-Help World**

- No matter what idealist may want to believe, it is really is a self-help world out there. By that, I mean that states have to help themselves, ultimately.
- There is no world government, there are no world police, and by now, you have probably got that lesson burned into your head. States only have to do what they are forced to do by other states. If you are the most powerful state, you do not have to do what others say, unless they gang up on you.
- By now, you should have researched your state and found what your state's interest is in relation to the topics at hand. If you need some help, ask the UNT Librarians to direct you toward Culture Grams, which will provide you with a background on your state.

- Go to the library's databases and do some searches. Academic Search Premier is not a bad place to start. Go into advanced search and play around with search terms. For example, in advanced search type in your issue and in the line below it, type your state's name. I hope that you will come up with some hits right away.
- Also, check out LexisNexis. You will find better hits with this than Academic Search Premier, but it has specific search terms that can be problematic to learn. Once you have the search terms down, this will be your best friend.
- Databases = Good. Google = Bad. Google will lead to many things, but good research usually is not it. Talk with your instructors, they will rant more about why databases are good and Google is best for finding conspiracy theories.

### Global Perspectives: International Relations Concepts That Help You to Understand Your State in the International System

- There are three schools of theory that you will see dominating International Relations (IR) at this level. If you understand these concepts, you will understand the way other states view the world and why they make their choices. This means you can use their perspectives to appeal to them.
- Below you will find brief summaries, but please know they are brief. Use them as a starting point.
  1. **Realism.** Sometimes this is called realpolitik, and it is a favorite of the US Department of Defense. Realism claims that the main concern of states is state sovereignty and survival. Morality at the state level is different from ordinary individual morality. A state has a duty to its citizens through each state's constitution. However, states do not have that same duty to other states. It is better to break international law and protect your citizens and your state than it is to uphold international law and lose it all. This is the paradigm shift for most students. This is why states do not trust each other, and expect states to do what is in their interest rather than what is in the world's best interest.

Realism usually goes well with the economic tradition of Mercantilism, which focuses on big industry, monopolies, and the sort of capitalist fat cats that Adam Smith wrote against in Wealth of Nations. The state has an interest in becoming economically self-sufficient because economics can be used as a weapon, and a state with a strong industrial sector can mass-produce the weapons that make great armies even better.

Realists break politics down into a hierarchy that puts national interest first and other issues second. That means a strong military, secure sovereignty, and control in the international system.

Hegemony/Hegemon. This is a concept that is found in Realist dialog. The Hegemon is the state with the most military power. In the self-help world, this is like being the big dog on the block. You can do whatever you can get away with, and that is a lot. In Balance of Power (BOP) terms, during the Cold War we were under a bipolar world system with the U.S.S.R. and U.S. being equals. When the U.S.S.R. fell, that left the U.S. as the only superpower, so we are currently the Hegemon. The bad part about being the Hegemon is that other states can feel threatened by the Hegemon's power and can gang up to remove them. Think of it as being a schoolyard

bully. You have power as long as another bully does not come along that is stronger or other kids simply gang up on you. Moreover, states that want to make a name for themselves can do it by challenging your power. The only way to survive is to stay strong.

2. **Liberalism.** If you read Kant or Adam Smith, you have an idea about what liberals are about. Liberals believe that states are rational actors, and if we work together and act rationally, we really can avoid war and have perpetual peace. Liberals believe that democracy is the most peaceful form of government and that if we spread democracy we can make the world a better place.

Liberals are for the free market economy. A liberal market without trade barriers is in the best interest for everyone. Competition in the global market makes it possible for states to get richer, buy imports cheaper, and because economic interdependence links economies this also forces states to learn to get along in order to economically get ahead.

Unlike Realists or Mercantilists, Liberals do not see the world in terms of everyone out for themselves or economics as a weapon. In fact, they view politics and economics as different subjects and states can share in the wealth in a political and economic sense. This school of thought can help to explain why states that fight on political issues can get along as trade partners. Politics can divide states, but economics can bring them together.

The UN was created with Liberal intentions. If we work together, we can have peace. However, when we talk about Liberalism in IR, we are not talking about the sort of "liberals" you hear about on Fox News. Bush's goal of making Iraq a model for other states in the Middle East by spreading democracy and the liberal market makes him sound a lot like a Liberal, but still now like the sort of "liberal" that Fox news rants about.

3. **Marxism/ Dependency Theory.** Yes, this is the same Marx that inspired what we think of Communism, Communism as practiced by the U.S.S.R. As a theoretical alternative to Liberalism and Realism, this one really lost its power after the fall of Communism. When IR theorists speak about the fall of Communism they are talking about the fall of the U.S.S.R. There are still Communist states out there, and although China has liberalized over the years and gained economically from it, it is not that Liberal. At best, China is a Communist/Liberal hybrid.

Marxism as applied to IR focuses on the rich states versus the poor states. The rich states need to keep the poor states poor so they will be able to use them to stay in power. Marxism would say the reason we invaded Iraq was for the oil, and if we can convince the Iraqi people to buy into capitalism then we can use the system against them and reap the energy benefits. For Marxists, the only way to escape this deadly game is to have a violent revolt and adopt Communism.

Dependency Theory is very popular with several developing states, and it originally started as a theoretical answer to why developing states can adopt Democracy and Capitalism and still find themselves unable to pull themselves up from the developing world into the developed world. This theory also has a rich versus poor aspect to it, but does not involve a violent revolution (most times). This theory is best for understanding the states who feel burned by the Liberal/Capitalist system.

- Look at the attached resources to get more of a perspective on these aspects if IR

theory and how they apply to how states view the international system and their places in it.

- Use the Model UN Prep Sheet to start thinking about how your state's needs fits within the international system, who your friends are and why, who your enemies are and why, and how you may be able to turn enemies into friends.

Resources:

[More on Realism, Liberalism, and Marxism/Dependency Theory \(PDF\)](#)  
[More on Dependency Theory \(Word doc\)](#)  
[UN Prep Sheet \(Word doc\)](#)

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### **Now That I know How My State Thinks, and What My State is Interested in, How do I Turn This into a Resolution?**

- Check out the UN Position Paper document I have attached as a model. This is an example of a Position Paper for the UN General Assembly (UNGA), but you can adapt it for the UNSC.
- Again, revisit UNSC Resolutions and steal some language and phrases from these documents.

Resources:

[How to Write a UN Position Paper \(Word doc\)](#)  
[UNSC Resolutions](#)

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### **What is Going to Happen When We Run Model UN? Part II**

- Using Robert's Rules of Order as our framework, the President of the UNSC (United States for the month of June) will start the session.
- States will open the floor to resolutions and debate.
- When states call a recess, there will be a scramble to do back room politicking so states can further their interests.
- Not everyone will be debating on the floor. Therefore, they will be acting as diplomats politicking other states diplomats, running information to and from their UNSC representative, and taking care of immediate research needs.

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### **Challenges and Policy Considerations**

- You really need to research UN Peacekeeping missions and the effectiveness of sanctions. Although the issue being debated may be in your state's interest, you may not want the UNSC to be the agent of action.

- You may agree with the spirit of the resolution, but the way they are arguing it may need modification. You can modify it during debate.
- You can also add so many modifications that no one will vote for it, which can be just as good as veto power if you are good at it.
- Timeframe, Magnitude, and Impact Calculus. **Timeframe:** Some issues are big issues, but their impacts will happen several generations in the future. Other issues may be more important because their impacts happen now. **Magnitude:** If two issues are in conflict and one causes more damage and destruction, the magnitude of the impacts can be a reason to vote for or against an issue. **Impact Calculus:** Using timeframe and magnitude arguments you can show how some issues matter more. Pointing this out and using as a reason to vote for or against something is called impact calculus.

### Resources for Research

- The library databases at UNT
- Searchable online magazines.
- United Nations website

Resources:

[UN Chronicle](#)

[The Economist](#)

[NY Times](#)

[Debate Central](#) (This year's CX Debate Topic is on Alternative Energy, so you will find articles here)

[Foreign Policy Magazine](#)

### Resources for Research Topics

General information for all topics

[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

(Nat. Geo.) - "NG Magazine", then "archives"('05)

[www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)

Worldwatch Institute - environmental research analysis

[www.sciam.com](http://www.sciam.com)

(Scientific American) - go to "magazine", then "past issues"('01)

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dda/WMD/treaty/>

<http://www.state.gov/www/global/arms/treaties/npt1.html>

Climate change

[www.climatescience.gov](http://www.climatescience.gov)

'US Climate Change Science Program' inc. 13 federal agencies

#### Energy for Sustainable Development

[www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov)

US Department of Energy - lots of good government information!

<http://www.undp.org/energy/>

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/>

<http://www.uneptie.org/energy/Act/wssd/index.htm>

<http://www.gnesd.org/>

#### Water Scarcity

<http://www.earth-policy.org/Indicators/indicator7.htm>

[http://www.kiplinger.com/businessresource/forecast/archive/water\\_scarcity\\_to\\_change\\_lives\\_070627.html](http://www.kiplinger.com/businessresource/forecast/archive/water_scarcity_to_change_lives_070627.html)

<http://e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=1825>

#### Biotechnology and food production

<http://www.ific.org/food/biotechnology/index.cfm>

<http://www.fao.org/Biotech/stat.asp>

<http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/health/az1066.html>

#### International travel and health (avian flu)

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/sitemap.html>

This is the National Library of Medicine. It is loaded with on-line primary source material and a great Profiles on Science Section

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>

<http://www.nature.com/nature/focus/avianflu/>

#### Intellectual property

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/intelprp/>

<http://www.intelproplaw.com/>

[http://www2.sims.berkeley.edu/resources/infoecon/Intellectual\\_Property.html](http://www2.sims.berkeley.edu/resources/infoecon/Intellectual_Property.html)

#### Alternative energy

<http://www.nrel.gov/>

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Colorado

[http://www.nicor.com/en\\_us/residential/energy\\_efficiency\\_tips/default.htm](http://www.nicor.com/en_us/residential/energy_efficiency_tips/default.htm)

Energy efficiency tips for homes

<http://www.debate-central.org/research/alternative-energy-websites>

A site with lots of energy links.

[www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov)

US Department of Energy - lots of good government information!

**I need a little more help!**

[Model UN Parliamentary Cheat Sheet](#) (Word 2007 .docx - Right click and "Save Link As...")



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