

IB Theory of Knowledge 1
Mr. Haupt and Ms. Logan
2011-2012 Fall Syllabus

IB Theory of Knowledge is an interdisciplinary course that asks students to reflect on what they know and how they know it. Students engage in daily discussions, explore their thoughts in a journal, deliver presentations, and write papers responding to specific prompts. Students are also introduced to the extended essay, which is pursued intensively during the second semester.

Week	Dates	Topic	Core Assignments
1-2	8/29-9/9	The problem of knowledge	Summer assignment (15 pts)
3-4	9/12-9/23	Sensory perception	Writing #1 (20 pts) Presentations on sensory perception (20 pts)
5-6	9/26-10/7	Language as a way of knowing	Presentations on language as a way of knowing (20 pts)
7-8	10/10-10/21	Emotion as a way of knowing	Writing #2 (30 pts) Presentations on emotion as a way of knowing (20 pts)
9-10	10/24-11/4	Reason	Exploring two prompts (10 pts)
11-12	11/7-11/18	Mathematics	Internal Assessment: Presentations begin (30 pts) Planning document (PPD) (5 pts) Self-assessment (PMF) (5 pts)
13-15	11/21-12/9	Physical sciences	Internal Assessment: Presentations continue Writing #3 (20 pts)
16-18	12/12-1/6	Human sciences	Internal Assessment: Presentations continue Writing #4 (30 pts)
19	1/10-1/13	Review	Internal Assessment: Presentations end

Resources

There is no textbook or anchor text for the course. Instead, we examine a variety of readings from across the disciplines, as well as film and video clips and material from the internet.

Assignments and course material will be posted on Edline.

Students will submit their papers via Turnitin.com.

The Internal Assessment

Students will make group oral presentations as their internal assessment for the course. Each student must present for ten minutes. Group presentations typically take a full period with time for discussion and processing during and following the presentations. Due dates will be assigned according to the topic chosen. In advance of their presentation, students will complete the TK/PPD (planning document) outlining their proposed presentation, as well as resources and strategies to be used. One week after the students complete their presentations, they must complete and hand in an individual self-assessment of the presentation (TK/PMF).

The Prescribed Title

The Prescribed Title is a required IB external assessment. All of the writing completed in TOK 1 will prepare students for the Prescribed Title, which they will work on in TOK 2 during their senior year. In order for a candidate to be eligible for the IB Diploma, he or she must complete and submit a Prescribed Title by the senior year deadline.

Journals

Students are required to write a series of journal entries in which they reflect on a variety knowledge issues, readings, and activities. Some of these entries will be written in class and some for homework. Journals will be checked periodically, and every few weeks, students will be required to re-write and submit individual entries via Turnitin.com.

Aims (excerpted from the IB Guide)

The aims of the TOK course are to:

- develop a fascination with the richness of knowledge as a human endeavor, and an understanding of the empowerment that follows from reflecting upon it
- develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed, critically examined, evaluated and renewed, by communities and individuals
- encourage students to reflect on their experiences as learners, in everyday life and in the Diploma Program, and to make connections between academic disciplines and between thoughts, feelings and actions
- encourage an interest in the diversity of ways of thinking and ways of living of individuals and communities, and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions, including participants' own
- encourage consideration of the responsibilities originating from the relationship between knowledge, the community and the individual as citizen of the world.

Objectives (excerpted from the IB Guide)

Having followed the TOK course, students should be able to:

- analyze critically knowledge claims, their underlying assumptions and their implications
- generate questions, explanations, conjectures, hypotheses, alternative ideas and possible solutions in response to knowledge issues concerning areas of knowledge, ways of knowing and students' own experience as learners
- demonstrate an understanding of different perspectives on knowledge issues
- draw links and make effective comparisons between different approaches to knowledge issues that derive from areas of knowledge, ways of knowing, theoretical positions and cultural values
- demonstrate an ability to give a personal, self-aware response to a knowledge issue
- formulate and communicate ideas clearly with due regard for accuracy and academic honesty

Policies and Procedures

Assessment

The writings and presentations will be assessed according to the IB rubrics for TOK. Copies of these rubrics will be distributed to students and will also be posted on Edline.

Final marking period grades will be determined on a percentage basis:

- A—90-100%
- B—80-89%
- C—70-79%
- D—60-69%
- E—0-59%

Late work will be graded up to one grade down if handed in between the due date and the final deadline. Work handed in after the deadline will receive an E. Work that is late because of an unexcused absence will earn a maximum of 50%.

Reteaching/Reassessing Policy

Students will be allowed to be reassessed on assignments as determined by the IB ToK team. Students will be informed ahead of time when an assignment may be reassessed. Only students who meet the deadline may be reassessed on an assignment. They must show evidence as determined by the teacher and team that they have made an attempt to relearn the material before taking the reassessment. Examples of that evidence include, but are not limited to:

- Coming to the teacher for extra help
- Attending TAP
- Completing practice assignments
- Making corrections on the original assessment/assignment.

Reassessment must be done in a timely fashion according to a schedule determined by the teacher and team. The reassessed grade will replace the original grade.

IB Diploma

The IB diploma grade is determined by a Points Matrix, which can be found in the IBO Guide. The external assessment for TOK is weighted at 40 points, while the internal assessment (the formal oral presentation and self-evaluation report) is weighted at 20 points.

A student who does not complete the internal and/or external IB assessments may risk not receiving the IB diploma and not passing the course.